Vijay's Jana Nayagan leaked online

P11

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Justice Yashwant Varma submits resignation to President Murmu

P11

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Maths : 99 English : 98

Rakshith Gowda SM
Physics : 92 Biology : 98
Chemistry : 97 2nd language : 96
Maths : 100 English : 99

TOTAL SCORE 581
Bhoomika R Yaligar
P: 97 C: 94 M: 99
B: 99 E: 98 LNG: 94
TOTAL SCORE 578
Yuktha R
P: 96 C: 96 M: 98
B: 99 E: 95 LNG: 94
TOTAL SCORE 578
Manikanta B Gowda
P: 96 C: 96 M: 97
B: 98 E: 95 LNG: 96
TOTAL SCORE 578
Vishal C
P: 98 C: 96 M: 99
B: 95 E: 98 LNG: 82
TOTAL SCORE 577
Siri Hegde M S
P: 97 C: 89 M: 98
B: 98 E: 99 LNG: 96
TOTAL SCORE 577
Sanvi R Tirlapur
P: 96 C: 95 M: 98
B: 94 E: 97 LNG: 97
TOTAL SCORE 577
Shashank N
P: 97 C: 96 M: 97
B: 99 E: 97 LNG: 91
TOTAL SCORE 577
Syed M Ahmed
P: 97 C: 96 M: 93
B: 98 E: 95 LNG: 98
TOTAL SCORE 577
Keerthan Teja DH
P: 100 C: 96 M: 97
B: 96 E: 92 LNG: 96
TOTAL SCORE 577
Kalyani H K
P: 98 C: 90 M: 100
B: 96 E: 95 LNG: 98
TOTAL SCORE 576
Tahirhusen I Naik
P: 95 C: 95 M: 98
B: 99 E: 93 LNG: 96
TOTAL SCORE 575
Sanjaykumar S
P: 99 C: 97 M: 94
B: 96 E: 94 LNG: 95
TOTAL SCORE 574
Kohil S Miraskar
P: 100 C: 95 M: 99
B: 96 E: 86 LNG: 98
TOTAL SCORE 572
T Ramtej
P: 98 C: 91 M: 96
B: 94 E: 95 LNG: 98
TOTAL SCORE 571
Chala Venkatesh
P: 99 C: 96 M: 89
B: 99 E: 95 LNG: 93
TOTAL SCORE 571
Karan N Raj
P: 95 C: 95 M: 92
B: 96 E: 99 LNG: 94
TOTAL SCORE 571
Arman Chand
P: 98 C: 94 M: 93
B: 97 E: 97 LNG: 92
TOTAL SCORE 571
Mohammad Minhaj
P: 97 C: 96 M: 95
B: 96 E: 92 LNG: 95
TOTAL SCORE 570
Yashwanth Reddy D S
P: 91 C: 95 M: 97
B: 97 E: 97 LNG: 93
TOTAL SCORE 569
Bhuvana C Gowda
P: 92 C: 96 M: 99
B: 98 E: 91 LNG: 93
TOTAL SCORE 569
B Siri Gowri
P: 93 C: 93 M: 92
B: 95 E: 96 LNG: 100
TOTAL SCORE 569
Shamitha R N
P: 96 C: 98 M: 85
B: 96 E: 98 LNG: 96
TOTAL SCORE 568
P Prashanth
P: 99 C: 96 M: 96
B: 100 E: 87 LNG: 90
TOTAL SCORE 568
Girisha KM
P: 96 C: 91 M: 97
B: 96 E: 90 LNG: 98
TOTAL SCORE 567
K M Shivani
P: 95 C: 90 M: 99
B: 93 E: 99 LNG: 91
TOTAL SCORE 567
Pavan Gowda G
P: 99 C: 96 M: 98
B: 99 E: 81 LNG: 94
TOTAL SCORE 567
Nayan Yadav S
P: 96 C: 96 M: 98
B: 99 E: 86 LNG: 92

LNG: 2nd Language*

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You (PM Narendra Modi) cannot protect West Bengal's people in other states, but promise a 'Sonar Bangla' at rallies
Political Theatre
Mamata Banerjee wants to protect infiltrators, BJP wants to 'detect, delete and deport' illegal immigrants

DECCAN HERALD
Saturday
April 11, 2026

Poll vault

Turnout spin

As Kerala's polling percentage crossed 75%, self-styled experts on social media were out with their theories on who will win this time. The catch: their analyses largely reflected which side of the political divide they stood on. For Congress supporters, the UDF was the clear winner; for CPM backers, the LDF was way ahead. Writer NS Madhavan, a former IAS officer, took to X to call the bluff, pointing to voting data from 1982 that shows both the Congress-led UDF and the CPM-led LDF have won in years when the state recorded high turnouts—well over 70%.

SHEMIN JOY, NEW DELHI

Meet the leader

Edappadi K Palaniswami
Edappadi and Salem
AIADMK

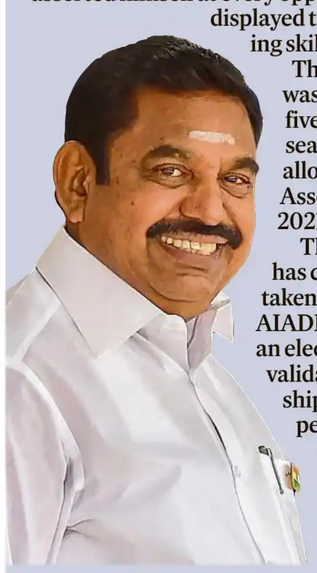
For EPS and the AIADMK, this is a make-or-break election. The party has not won any poll since the death of its charismatic supremo, J Jayalalithaa, in 2016, and another defeat could put Palaniswami's leadership within the AIADMK under strain.

To his credit, EPS not only ensured that the AIADMK government completed its full five-year term but also consolidated his hold within the party by systemically expelling potential challengers at the right time.

A shrewd and astute politician, EPS asserted his authority as chief minister from day one, using his political acumen and office to chip away at the support base of his rival and former boss, O Panneerselvam, within the party.

EPS is seeking re-election from his native Edappadi seat, which he has won five times in the past. A grassroots worker, he rose through the ranks of the AIADMK and was a surprise choice for chief minister when his then boss, VK Sasikala, backed him as the legislature party leader.

Despite facing criticism that his government depended on BJP support, EPS asserted himself at every opportunity and displayed tough bargaining skills.



The saffron party was restricted to five Lok Sabha seats in 2019, allotted only 20 Assembly seats in 2021, and 27 now.

Though he has completely taken control of the AIADMK, EPS needs an electoral victory to validate his leadership among the people. His foremost task is to halt the party's losing streak and return it to power.

Trivia

DMK and AIADMK came close to merging, hold your breath. The push to unite the two parties was led by then Union Minister Biju Patnaik at the behest of Prime Minister Charan Singh in 1979. Singh believed that a merger would help them sweep Tamil Nadu and defeat the Congress under Indira Gandhi. DMK chief M Karunanidhi and his AIADMK counterpart MG Ramachandran met at the State Guest House in Chennai on September 12, 1979, to discuss the proposal. They almost agreed to merge, retaining the DMK name and the AIADMK's flag, with Karunanidhi accepting that MGR would continue as CM. But MGR called off the merger just days later, acting on the advice of his colleague Panruti S Ramachandran, who warned that such a move would not sit well with party cadres.

BJP banks on Bankim's legacy in Naihati

Fields his brother's descendant, who looks to gain from Vande Mataram celebrations, among other things

FROM THE GROUND

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Rajnath Singh, along with West Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya, is present in support of Naihati party candidate Sumitra Chattopadhyay as the latter files his papers. PTI FILE

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is ubiquitous in Naihati. The suburban town on the bank of the Hooghly river in West Bengal has a school, a college, a library, a road, a bridge, and even an industrial park, not to mention quite a few shops named after the Sahitya Samrat (Emperor of Literature).

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

He has now landed in the midst of the campaign cacophony in poll-bound West Bengal, too. The BJP has fielded Sumitro Chattopadhyay, a fifth-generation descendant of the literary icon's brother Purna Chandra Chattopadhyay, as its candidate in Naihati.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government celebrated the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram a few months ago, and the saffron party obviously couldn't let go of the opportunity to reap its political dividends in the birthplace of the National Song's composer.

Rishi Bankim first imagined Bharat as Mata and revolutionised patriotism with his stirring ode to the motherland, said Sumitro, who takes pride in his illustrious ancestor's nationalist legacy, carried down through generations in his family.

"I am with the BJP today because it is the only party that has nationalism at the core of its ideology," said the 62-year-old, while taking a break from his gruelling campaign calendar and visiting Kanthalpara, where the family's ancestral house — the birthplace of the author of great novels like "Durgeshnandini", "Kapalkundala", "Devi Chaudhurani", and, of course, "Anandamath", which was based on the Sanyasi Rebellion and the Great Bengal Famine of 1770s — still stands.

The expansive verandah, elegant columns and sprawling courtyard radiate the grace of a typical 19th-century affluent Bengali household. "I don't understand the peculiar ideology of the Congress. The Trinamool Congress has no ideology at all," said Sumitro.

Modi, in November 2025, accused the country's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru of succumbing to pressure from Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Muslim League to truncate Vande Mataram — first published in "Bangadarshan" in 1875 and later inserted in "Anandamath" in 1882 — for a rendition at the Indian National Congress' 1937 session in Maharashtra's Faizpur.

"The stanzas paying tribute to Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati were removed to appease a particular community," said Sumitro, a former bureaucrat in the state government, echoing the BJP's allegations against the Congress.

"Had Rishi Bankim been alive in 1947, he would have vehemently opposed the Partition of India."

He thanked Modi for mandating the full rendition of Vande Mataram. "The PM has finally given Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and his tribute to Bharat Mata the long-overdue recognition and respect."

Rishi Bankim's ancestral house at Kanthalpara in Naihati now houses a centre for research into his works, with the adjacent "baithakkhana" (parlour) being turned into a museum — both run by the West Bengal government.

Sumitro, who now runs a business, may be a new entrant in the arena of politics in Naihati, but he is pulling out all the stops to not only project himself as a "bhumiputra" (son of the soil) but also to pose a formidable challenge to the TMC's Sanat De, who has been winning in the constituency without a break since 2011.

Sanat is relying on the development works he spearheaded, in addition to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's welfare schemes.

AIMIM severs ties with Kabir's party over video row

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) announced on Friday that it has severed its alliance with Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) ahead of the upcoming West Bengal elections, citing concerns over statements it believes undermine the integrity of Muslims.

The party confirmed it will contest the polls independently.

The decision came amid a growing political controversy triggered by a purported video, circulated by the Trinamool Congress (TMC), allegedly featuring Kabir.

In the video, he claims to have spoken about links with senior BJP leaders, including Suvendu Adhikari and Himanta Biswa Sarma, and to have outlined a strategy to weaken Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

AIADMK faces Mukulathor loyalty crisis

Sasikala, Dhinakaran and OPS appear to have queered the pitch

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Supporters cheer during an AIADMK rally in Chennai on April 8. PTI

Mukulathors, a dominant community that holds the key to victory in about 60 Assembly seats in Central and South Tamil Nadu, have largely sided with the AIADMK since the days of M G Ramachandran. This dominance was further consolidated under J Jayalalithaa, largely due to the prominence she gave to V K Sasikala.

However, Jayalalithaa's death in 2016 and the systemic sidelining of community leaders — Sasikala, T T V Dhinakaran, and O Panneerselvam — by the AIADMK, now led by Edappadi K Palaniswami, a Gounder by caste, have dramatically changed the political landscape.

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

Thus, the battle for the votes of Mukulathors — an umbrella term for Maravars, Kallars, and Agamudaiyars — has become fierce, with large sections shifting loyalties towards Dhinakaran's AMMK and the DMK.

The AIADMK inducted the AMMK into the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the insistence of the BJP, whose support is also growing within the community.

Dhinakaran, who rebelled against Palaniswami, agreed to the BJP's suggestion to safeguard his own political future.

However, the effort might have hit roadblocks with Sasikala queering the pitch in the region, and OPS joining arch-rival DMK, which has been eyeing a sizeable portion of the community's votes.

Mukulathors constitute about 8-10% of Tamil Nadu's population, which is why every political party is wooing them.

Though Sasikala's nominees are not expected to win, the votes they secure may hurt the NDA's prospects, especially in close contests, amid actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)'s disruptions.

It is a fact that the AMMK spoiled the AIADMK's chances in the 2021 elections in about two dozen seats.

Professor K A Manikumar, who has chronicled caste violence in South TN, said the pre-2016 era — when Mukulathors overwhelmingly voted for the AIADMK — was over. "In this region, the AIADMK is now seen as a Gounder party and is facing a Thevar-Gounder dichotomy. The AIADMK will not get back the entire Thevar votes despite Dhinakaran's presence in the NDA. That is already split between many parties," he explained.

Political researcher Ravindran Duraisamy concurred, saying that the AIADMK would not be able to corner the Mukulathors' support despite EPS' outreach. "The Mukulathors, who don't like to be subordinate to any other community, see EPS as a Gounder leader," explained Duraisamy, adding that NTK leader S Seeman was also likely to snatch a sizeable chunk of the community votes.

Manikumar also felt Dhinakaran might not have the impact he had in the 2021 elections, especially in the Maravar-dominated regions of the composite Tirunelveli district, because he has lost many of his lieutenants.

Prof Ramu Manivannan, former head of the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Madras, opined that 30% of the Mukulathor votes would still go to the AIADMK due to the legacy affinity for MGR and Jayalalithaa.

"However, the point is that acute divisions will take place, and the DMK will gain from this," said Manivannan.

However, Manikumar felt that since the community has no natural affinity towards the DMK, its youth votes might gravitate towards the TVK.

POLL DIGEST

Repoll ordered in one polling booth in Assam

The Election Commission on Friday ordered repoll in a booth of Karimganj (North) constituency in Assam's Sribhumi district, reports PTI.

The repoll has been ordered in booth number 239 at Babyland High English School. It will be held on Saturday from 7 am to 5 pm, and was ordered following clashes between supporters of the BJP and Congress. There are 14 candidates in the fray in this Barak Valley constituency, with a triangular contest among BJP's Subrata Chaudhari, Congress's Jakaria Ahmed and Choudhury Hibbur Rasul Usama Mabrur of the AIUDF.

CPM rebel supporter's house attacked

A house belonging to a CPM leader who allegedly supported a rebel candidate was attacked, and a car parked on the premises was set on fire, police said on Friday.

Payyannur police have registered a case. The targeted house belonged to T Purushothaman, a native of Mavicheri in Payyannur. According to the police, the complainant has alleged that CPM workers were involved in the incident.

Purushothaman, a local party leader, is a friend of V Kunhikrishnan, who defected from the CPM and contested as an independent candidate with UDF support in the Payyannur constituency.

BJP's Sobha Surendran appears before RO

BJP leader Sobha Surendran on Friday appeared before the District Returning Officer in Kerala and gave her statement as part of the probe into the "cash-for-vote" allegation against her. She contested as a BJP candidate from the Palakkad constituency. The controversy arose after a video, allegedly recorded by Congress workers, showed a woman offering something to an elderly woman. Another group then opened her hand, revealing a small roll of Rs 500 currency notes.

REACHING OUT

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, along with DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran, campaigns for Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni constituency in Chennai, on Friday. PTI

ELECTORAL PUSH

BJP activates cadre for twin state battles

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the Assam elections over, the BJP has now set its sights on the upcoming polls in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

To improve its performance, the party has reached out to its cadre in several states, directing them to head to these two states to help with the poll efforts.

Sources said that the party leadership has issued instructions to the chief ministers and senior leaders of all BJP-ruled states to immediately reach these polling states and actively participate in the door-to-door contact campaign.

The team of chief ministers and central leaders will not only address a sizeable number of election rallies at different places in these states, but BJP workers and office-bearers from different states will also go door to door along with local workers to talk about the works of the Narendra Modi government.

According to sources, the BJP will now specifically publicise the Central government's major initiatives.

BJP leader K Annamalai addresses a campaign meet in Udhagamandalam. PTI

Prominent among these are cultural-integration events such as the Kashi-Tamil Sangam, which seeks to highlight the cultural and linguistic ties between Tamil Nadu and Modi's constituency, Varanasi.

The party also wants to highlight Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat. Some infrastructure projects of rail and road connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari will also be highlighted.

These include the recently completed Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link. Party workers have been asked to say that the project has fully connected the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country.

In West Bengal, where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and non-vegetarian food have become issues, the party is making some changes to its campaign strategy, and trying to achieve a positive and progressive note.

"With peace and unity, we will build a strong organisational structure in these states," a senior BJP leader said.

As per the strategy, many CMs and state leaders — including Adityanath and Himanta Biswa Sarma — will play an active role in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Party workers have been directed to convey information about infrastructure development along with schemes like the PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala and Ayushman Bharat.

The party leadership is hopeful that the focus on issues of development, cultural integration and national connectivity will help strengthen the party's position.

Turnout ups stakes for all sides

KORAH ABRAHAM
DHNS

The first Assembly election in Kerala after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has recorded one of the highest voter turnouts in the state's history. At the end of the day's polling on Thursday, Kerala recorded a turnout of 78.27%, compared to 76% in 2021, 77.35% in 2016 and 75% in 2011.

For decades, a widely held belief in Kerala has been that higher turnout favours the United Democratic Front (UDF), while lower polling benefits the Left Democratic Front (LDF). Yet, an examination of electoral history shows no consistent pattern to back this assumption.

The latest election, conducted after the controversial SIR process, which saw the deletion of over eight lakh voters, has naturally pushed up turnout figures. The percentage of votes cast tends to rise, making direct comparisons with previous elections less straightforward.

VOTING TRENDS

- Kerala saw 78.27% voting, one of the highest in state history
- No consistent link between turnout and party fortunes
- LDF eyes rare third term; UDF banks on anti-incumbency
- Experts says higher turnout often signals pressure on incumbent govt

KERALA
Assembly Poll

The stakes are especially high this time. The LDF, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, is seeking a rare third consecutive term, having broken Kerala's tradition of alternating governments every five years in 2021. The UDF, under Opposition Leader VD Satheesan, is banking on anti-incumbency sentiments, while the NDA has mounted an intensified campaign, hoping to convert its increased visibility into electoral gains.

Over the past four decades, turnout has remained above 70% in all Assembly polls. The highest turnout (80.54% in 1987) and the lowest (71.16% in 1996) both resulted in LDF wins. In 2011, the UDF won when it was 75.26%, and in the subsequent polls in 2016, the LDF came back to power when it was 77.35%.

The UDF interprets that the higher turnout this time around is a sign of strong anti-incumbency at the grassroots level. The LDF has rejected this, asserting that its cadre vote has been fully polled and that voting patterns remain consistent.

Political commentator J Prabash told *DH* that a higher turnout usually signals a trend against the incumbent government.

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

WHACKY VERSE

Curry flavour

In Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Bengal
The BJP's aiming for a huge haul.
Their regional parties
Are known smarties--
This looks like a dramatic dangal.

Sooryavanshi's blitz floors RCB

Opener's 78, Jurel's 81 n.o. power Rajasthan Royals to six-wicket win

P18

Coaching people to find love

Dating apps, once seen as a convenient way to find love on your own terms, are losing favour. 'Swipe fatigue' has led some marriage-minded Indians to turn to 'experts' to decode their dating patterns and improve their chances of finding the right match. A Bengaluru-based dating coach and matchmaker tells us more about her job.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 15

Vance heads to Pak for high-stakes talks

Tehran sets two conditions ahead of Saturday's proposed talks

WASHINGTON/DUBAI/ISLAMABAD, AGENCIES

US Vice President JD Vance on Friday left for Pakistan to participate in peace talks with Iran to end their war, even as there was no official word about the arrival of the Iranian delegation in Islamabad, which has been placed under high security.

Before he departed for Pakistan, Vance said he was looking forward to the negotiation and hoped that it would be "positive".

Citing President Donald Trump, Vance said, "If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand". But he added, "If they're going to try to play us, then they're going to find that the negotiating team is not that receptive."

Vance also said that Trump "gave us some pretty clear guidelines" on how talks should go. The vice president did not take questions from reporters travelling with him on board Air Force Two.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that Tehran has threatened to withdraw from the talks if Israeli attacks on Lebanon do not cease. "Two of the measures mutually agreed upon between the parties have yet to be implemented: a ceasefire in Lebanon and the release of Iran's blocked assets prior to the commencement of negotiations. These two matters must be fulfilled before negotiations," Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said in a post on X.

Pakistani Rangers on alert ahead of the US-Iran talks in Islamabad. AFP

FROM WEST ASIA

Hezbollah chief warns Lebanese government against giving "free concessions" to Israel during truce talks

- Hezbollah targets Israel's Ashdod naval base with missiles
- Air raid alerts across Israel after rocket fire from Lebanon
- European and Arab states pressure Israel to stop targeting Beirut
- Red Cross and Turkey's Red Crescent dispatch aid convoy to Iran
- French energy giant Total says it shut down a major refinery in Saudi after it was damaged during war

> We have a reset going. We're loading up the ships with the best weapons ever made. And if we don't have a deal, we will be using them, and we will be using them very effectively.
>
> **DONALD TRUMP,** US President

▸ Vance, Page 6
In mediation, China may hold key, P13

Govt sets ball rolling for new stadium in Anekal

Tenders floated for first phase of international cricket stadium on B'luru outskirts

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state has taken the first step towards constructing an international cricket stadium in Anekal, on Bengaluru's outskirts, with the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) floating tenders for the first phase of the ambitious project.

The first phase — incurring a cost of Rs 950 crore — will focus on stadium construction, laying of connecting roads and allied activities.

STADIUM STATS
First phase completion: 3 years
Planned to host cricket as well as other events
80,000 Seating capacity
1.22L sq m Total area (including podium)
DESIGN
'Seating bowl', inspired from works of Walter P Moore
Stadium facade to be designed to reflect Karnataka's cultural identity, cricketing heritage

The project to construct a new stadium, located at Suryanagar, Indlawadi in Anekal, was approved by the state Cabinet in October 2025, after 11 people lost their lives in a stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium in June 2025.

This was one among the three proposals that were submitted to the government after the stampede — the other two stadiums are proposed at the Shivaram Karanth Layout in North Bengaluru and the Bidadi Integrated Township. Once completed, according to the government, the Anekal stadium will be the second largest in the country.

Tender documents accessed by *DH* showed that the new stadium will have a seating capacity of 80,000 as against the Chinnaswamy stadium's 32,000. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar opined that there was a need to build a new stadium with a higher capacity while also increasing the capacity of the Chinnaswamy stadium.

The first phase is aimed for completion in three years. The stadium is planned in such a way that it can host other events.

▸ Stadium. Page 6

Missing Kerala girl found dead

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS: The body of a 16-year-old Kerala student who had gone missing on April 7 near the Manikyadhara Falls in the Chandradrona mountain range in Chikkamagaluru district was found on Friday afternoon, said the police. The body was spotted using a drone camera. The girl was part of a group of 40 members from Palakkad in Kerala, who had come on a holiday to Chikkamagaluru.

Police suspect that the girl may have slipped and fallen to her death, adding any other cause of her death would be clarified only after the post-mortem report is received.

Details on Page 4

BJP releases Bengal manifesto, promises UCC in six months

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The BJP, which had ridiculed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's 'Lakshmir Bhandar' scheme, on Friday promised a similar programme with a higher monthly payout for women, along with the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) within six months of coming to power in the state.

The BJP manifesto also pledged financial assistance of Rs 3,000 to every unemployed youth, similar to the 'Yuva Sathi' scheme launched by the TMC government, albeit at a lower monthly payout of Rs 1,500.

The party also pledged to revive industries, beginning with an industrial park in Singur, where a protest against the acquisition of land for a car manufacturing plant forced Tata Motors to shift its unit to Gujarat and catapulted the TMC to power in West Bengal in 2011.

Home Minister Amit Shah released the manifesto in Kolkata but refrained from declaring the chief ministerial candidate.

▸ BJP manifesto, Page 6

Encroachment case: Ex-speaker loses appeal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bringing to closure a 22-year row over cases of forest encroachment by former Assembly speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, the appellate authority of Forest Department, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Circle, held that he has encroached 60 acres 23 guntas in Kolar.

Details on Page 6

Bypoll: Cong alleges sabotage

BENGALURU, DHNS: The knives are out for a "conspirator" in the ruling Congress after the Davangere South bypoll, with some party leaders from the Muslim community on Friday alleging a "big conspiracy" by one of their own to undermine the chances of the official candidate.

Details on Page 3B

Marco Rubio to visit India in May

WASHINGTON, PTI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to visit New Delhi next month, it was announced here after his "productive meeting" with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on a range of issues, including trade and the Quad. Misri, who is on a three-day visit here, met Rubio at the White House on Thursday.

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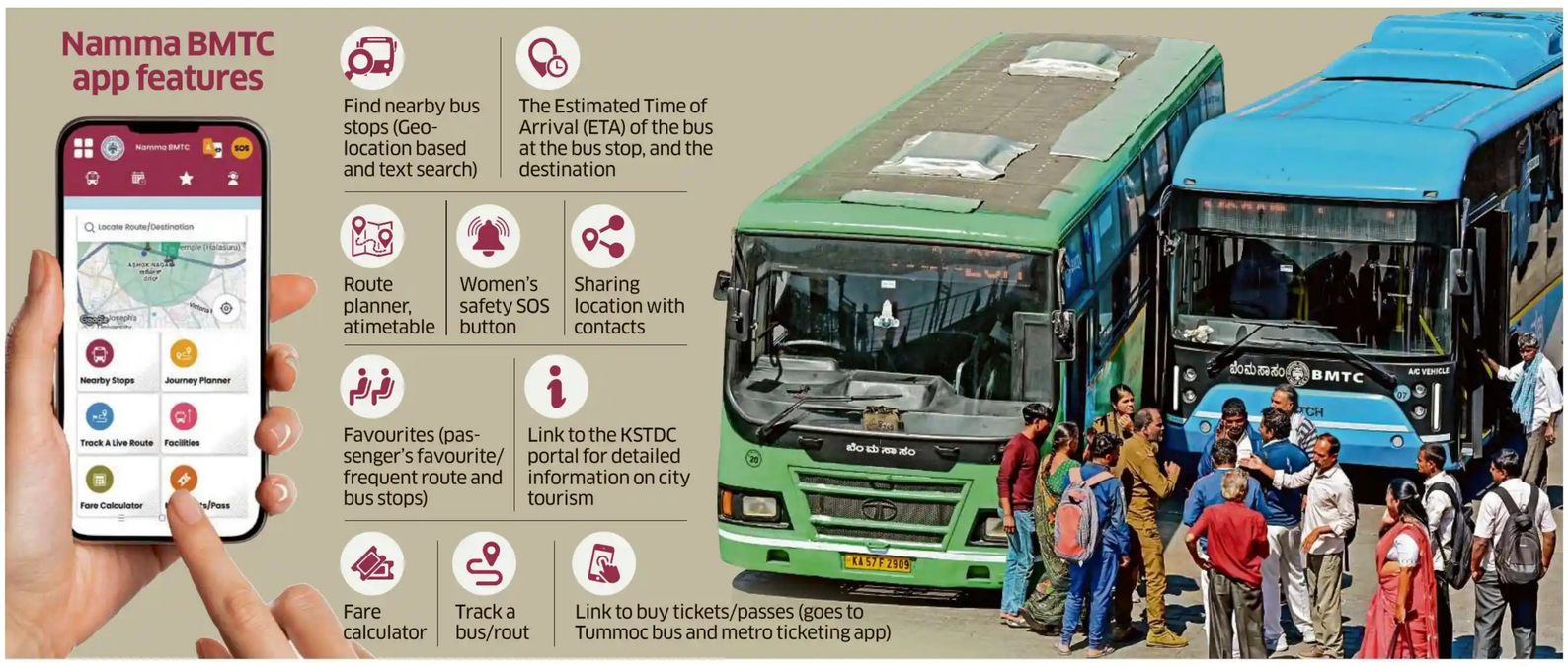
INTELLIGENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Namma BMTC: the good and the gaps

BMTC's intelligent transport system is functional, but has a few gaps to fill. Meanwhile, BMTC officials take the initiative to help commuters.


Namma BMTC app features
Find nearby bus stops (Geo-location based and text search)
The Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) of the bus at the bus stop, and the destination
Route planner, atimetable
Women's safety SOS button
Sharing location with contacts
Favourites (passenger's favourite/ frequent route and bus stops)
Link to the KSTDC portal for detailed information on city tourism
Fare calculator
Track a bus/rout
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Nearby Stops
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BMTC
A/C VEHICLE

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

A commuter waiting for a Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus at the Bhashyam Circle bus stop in Sadashivanagar usually goes home by 8.45 pm, catching buses in the 176 series. The BMTC sometimes changes some other buses to the 176 route by changing the board, but that night, this did not happen. Finally, a bus arrived at 9.30 pm after 45 minutes of waiting, but it was not visible on the Namma BMTC app, BMTC's Intelligent Transport System (ITS).

This is a common problem with the ITS. There are other technical glitches plaguing it.

"Buses with last update time of more than 5 minutes ago are a common problem on the K-2 route," says Shreya, a Class 11 student who uses BMTC for her commute. But she finds the BMTC commute pleasant because she travels during the daytime and buses are frequent, even though they do not appear on the app. If it were at night, a bus not appearing on the app would be problematic, as the bus frequency is lower, she says.

Why do buses go off the grid? A source in the know said that out of more than 7,000 BMTC buses, about 4,000 buses have been onboarded to the ITS system. "The old buses do not exist on ITS. Even newer electrical buses are updated on ITS," the source said.

"Traffic congestion can also cause delays at signals, and GPS data can be delayed. This is one reason why sometimes buses can go off the grid," says Vinay Baindur, an independent researcher.

BMTC sources agree with this. They also say that sometimes, on some buses, the announcement systems are intentionally turned off, so the voice announcements do not work. But these are minor problems that are easily fixable.

"New electric vehicles are not onboard the BMTC ITS. For example, if I search for 285-M on the Yelahanka route, the app shows old Volvos and other buses, but not the new electric buses (KA-01 ARC series). There is a problem with how they have onboarded the new vehicles on the app," says Vikram Shetty, a public transport enthusiast based in Yelahanka.

He says the facility should be built into the Namma BMTC app itself to buy tickets, rather than navigating to another app, because sometimes the QR codes on the bus panels do not work as intended due to vehicle movement, crowd, and lighting issues.

"On the technology front, they can do a lot. They can introduce pre-loaded wallets through which commuters can pay for tickets. They update every 30 seconds. On faster routes, this makes the tracking a bit unreliable because the bus would have gone if you miss those 30 seconds," he adds. The map/GPS refresh rate has to be optimised, he adds.

'Use the commuter data in better ways'

"Pressure from the private sector on BMTC is too much to share data freely. BMTC itself should use the commuter data to divert more buses to particular areas. It should use the data for the public benefit and to decongest the roads," says Vinay.

Rationalisation of schedules based on real-time operational data from ITS is one of the objectives presented in the White Paper on Effective Transport Management Initiatives for implementation in Karnataka's Transport sector. Sources say this is implemented to a certain extent.

"Nowadays, everything is UPI-based, and the BMTC has real-time data on commuters on any given route and buses. Depending on passenger load, they should increase bus frequency and adjust dynamic bus routing based on specific events and areas. But that is not happening," says Vikram.

Data show that there are 4,400 bus stops and 2,870 public transport routes in the greater Bengaluru Metropolitan Region, with 1,684 of them in the GBA area. Various studies have tried to come up with plans for feeder buses around metro stations and analyse the traffic situation etc., in order to improve last-mile connectivity.

Namma BMTC has been a useful addition to Bengaluru's public transport scene, but it can be better if the existing loopholes are identified and fixed, say public transport enthusiasts.

Complaints to BMTC

complaints@mybmtc.com

Call

Helpline: **080-22483777**
Control room: **760991499**

Other digital initiatives

BMTC's digital pass system allows people to buy daily, weekly, or monthly bus passes via a mobile app using online payments. Each pass has a unique ID and QR code, which conductors scan or validate during travel using electronic ticketing machines.

Ticket payments via UPI have also been game-changers. "We do not need to carry change now. We can directly pay using the UPI or the QR codes given on the bus panels," says Vinod V, a college student studying in a college in Basaveshwaranagar.

"BMTC used to have a commuter comfort task force, but it is no longer functional. It exists on paper only," says Vinay. However, since the officials and depot managers are approachable to the public, the complaint redressal is not a hassle, say other commuters.

BMTC officials did not respond to the queries *DH* posed.

Connecting commuters through messaging groups

Sathish S, a BMTC official who served as the depot manager in Whitefield until 2022, says BMTC officials started a Telegram group to help commuters on the KIA-15 route. They started going to apartments around here and speaking with people, spreading the word about bus routes and the Telegram group.

As a result, more people started using the bus, and the Telegram channel grew rapidly. The revenue on the route also increased.

Girish C, an active member of this group, reveals more. "Looking at the number of people using the group and their struggles, a thought came to my mind: Why can't I build an app dedicated to the route?"

So, being a developer himself, he built an app for the KIA-15 route. "The app gives information like crew details, timings, location, etc. for each bus on the particular route," he explains. It draws its information from the BMTC server itself, with permission from the public transport body. People find it useful because it provides information not available on the Namma BMTC app and makes their commute smoother.

The app is available for both Android and iOS. The Android version has 1,500 downloads, and the iOS version has around 500 downloads. Girish is all praise for BMTC officials supporting his efforts.

"Now there are around 8,000 people, all of whom depend upon KIA-15 regularly," Girish explains.

Why do citizens need crew details? "People can coordinate or plan their commute, call the crew if they don't see a bus and go for alternatives in case of problems," says Girish. On remote routes, if commuters are nearby, buses can even stop for a few minutes to help them, say other commuters.

Another such Telegram group focuses on the KIA-5D route (Art of Living-Airport). Not just the people going to the airport, but those alighting midway use these buses. It works out economically because bus fares are lower for non-airport stops and within city limits. Girish has also developed a microapp for this.

Satish moved to but did not keep quiet. He now handles the K R Puram depot and has begun another WhatsApp group, this time for metro feeder buses (MF-10,10A,10B (G2) Kithaganur/Bidrahalli/Kadugodi/Tin Factory Metro) with the same agenda of helping commuters and boosting the revenue, a win-win for both the BMTC and the commuters, also helping Metro connectivity in the process. Officials post the feeder bus numbers and timings in the group.

"We can't do this for major routes. We do this because it is an interior area," says Sathish. More than 1800 commuters use this group as a resource.

Feedback:
pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Revamped HAL museum opens doors on April 13

BENGALURU, DHNS

The HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum on Old Airport Road will reopen to the public on April 13 after undergoing extensive modernisation, with new immersive installations and upgraded aviation exhibits.

The facility, operated by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, was unveiled on Friday by its Chairman and Managing Director, D K Sunil, in the presence of senior officials, including directors across finance, operations, human resources, and engineering and R&D.

Established in 2001, the museum is considered India's first aerospace museum.

The latest upgrade shifts its focus from a conventional display of aircraft and artefacts to a more interactive format, incorporating digital and experiential elements.

The HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum on Old Airport Road will reopen to the public on Monday with immersive installations. PHOTO: HAL

Interesting exhibits

Among the additions is a life-size replica of the Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE-25) and a 3D anamorphic runway installation featuring aircraft such as Prachand and Tejas. The indoor section also includes kinetic displays and a hologram fan installation.

A central attraction is 'Wings of Bharat', a multi-sensory show housed in a hangar-like space, which presents the company's contributions to the aerospace sector. A hologram installation introduces a holographic avatar that guides visitors through the organisation's milestones.

The museum also features 3D models of aircraft and systems across fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and space platforms, alongside archival material presented through digital interfaces. A Dhruv helicopter cockpit simulator has been added as part of the interactive experience.

The remodelled museum space also includes a dedicated children's zone, featuring learning tools such as model-building stations, quizzes, and augmented reality features.

Additionally, the outdoor aircraft park continues to display platforms including the HF-24 Marut, MiG-21, and Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv. The museum will remain open daily from 9 am to 4.30 pm.

Italian Design Day explores sustainable spaces in Bengaluru

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Consulate General of Italy in Bengaluru marked the 10th edition of Italian Design Day on Friday with a series of events examining the role of design and architecture in shaping sustainable and functional spaces.

Antonella Andriani

The programme opened with a keynote lecture by Antonella Andriani, Vice President of the Associazione per il Disegno Industriale (ADI), at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology. Her talk focused on the evolution of Italian design through the Compasso d'Oro award, considered among the country's most recognised design honours, with an emphasis on sustainability, research and technological innovation.

Alongside the lecture, an exhibition titled 'Icons of Design' was inaugurated at the Science Gallery, located on Bellary Road. The exhibition showcases a selection of Italian design works that have received the Compasso d'Oro, offering a view into developments in industrial design and material use.

The event concluded with a panel discussion on 'Re-Design: Regenerating Spaces, Objects, Ideas, and Relations'. The session featured Andriani along with Bengaluru-based architects and designers Nicola La Noce and Federico Fraternale. The discussion centred on how Italian design principles interact with local contexts, particularly in South Indian cities like Bengaluru, and addressed themes of sustainability, modern materials and technological adaptation.

Speaking on the role of architecture in making Bengaluru more liveable, Nicola stressed the importance of both public and private architecture being accessible and inclusive. "Architecture can't make a city liveable on its own; we also need our counterparts, such as policymakers and sociologists, to work with us," he said.

Italian Design Day is an annual initiative supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture and held across multiple cities globally. This year's edition aims to encourage dialogue between Italian and Indian design practitioners while highlighting ongoing shifts in design practices driven by environmental and social considerations.

Drunk pub manager held for abusing staff, attacking cops

BENGALURU, DHNS: A store manager of a popular pub was arrested after he allegedly created a ruckus in an inebriated state and abused bar staff for refusing to serve alcohol beyond closing hours. He later attempted to assault policemen.

The accused, identified as Saikumar Reddy (26), a resident of JP Nagar 7th Phase, is employed at a bar in Electronic City.

According to police, Reddy went to SLR Bar, an MRP outlet on Neeladri Road, around 1.45 am and began banging on the closed doors, demanding alcohol. When the cashier, Ramesh, refused to serve him citing closing hours, Reddy allegedly started abusing staff and creating a scene outside the premises.

Alerted by a passerby, patrolling police from the Electronic City police station rushed to the spot. On seeing them, Reddy allegedly turned aggressive, used abusive language, threatened the officers, and attempted to assault them while they were on duty.

Despite repeated warnings by Assistant Sub-Inspector Siddarama K S, he continued his unruly behaviour and allegedly tried to attack the ASI and police constable Mutturaj by picking up a stone. He also allegedly claimed to be an influential person and threatened the officers with suspension if they did not leave the spot.

As the situation escalated, police took him into custody and later arrested him. A case has been registered against Reddy for public nuisance, criminal intimidation, and attempting to assault a public servant at the Electronic City police station, and he has been remanded to judicial custody, police said.

Evening showers ease city's summer heat

BENGALURU, DHNS: Parts of the city received a thunderstorm accompanied by lightning on Friday evening, bringing relief from the scorching summer heat.

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD), the Bengaluru City observatory recorded 1.5 mm of rainfall by 8.30 pm. This was the first pre-monsoon rainfall in April.

The rainfall occurred after the city had recorded the highest maximum temperature of the year, at 35.4°C. Despite being isolated, the rainfall did help reduce the temperature.

People take cover as Bengaluru receives brief showers on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

At 5.30 pm, Bengaluru City recorded a maximum temperature of 34.8°C and a minimum of 24.4°C. The temperatures at HAL airport were 34.5°C and 23.4°C, respectively.

However, the temperature remained higher at Kempegowda International Airport, with a maximum of 35.5°C and a minimum of 24°C.

The IMD has forecast a partly cloudy sky, with maximum and minimum temperatures of around 34°C and 24°C, respectively, until 8.30 am on Sunday.

Man held for spreading false 'zombie drug' claim on social media

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bagalur police have arrested a 29-year-old employee of a private company for uploading a misleading video on social media claiming that a man was under the influence of "zombie drugs."

The accused, identified as Hemanth, a resident of Vidyaranyapura, had been issued a notice to appear for questioning on Friday. After learning that the police were looking for him, he posted an apology on social media. He was later taken into custody. Hemanth claims that he has been working as a field link executive in a private firm, police said.

Hemanth

According to the police, the video was shot near a private college and showed a man behaving erratically, moving his limbs in an unusual manner as if disoriented. Hemanth suspected that the man was under the influence of "zombie drugs" or 'xylazine' and uploaded the video on his Instagram account 'he_man_nth', which later went viral. However, Bagalur police traced the man seen in the video and subjected him to a medical examination. The reports confirmed that no narcotic or psychotropic substances were found in his system.

Sections 353(2) and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, have been invoked against the accused. Section 353(2) penalises creating, publishing or circulating false information, rumours or alarming news, while Section 352 deals with intentional insults designed to provoke a breach of public peace or cause another person to commit an offence. Further investigation is under way, the police officer said.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh had warned that strict action would be taken against those spreading misinformation online soon after the video went viral, and actor Duniya Vijay and a former IPS officer had shared the posts on social media.

Online clip influence

During interrogation, Hemanth told police that in the early morning he had watched videos on social media showing the behaviour of individuals allegedly under the influence of 'zombie drugs' in the United States.

"He said he had those visuals in mind when he stepped out of his house and, upon noticing a man behaving unusually, assumed he was under the influence of such drugs. Based on this assumption, he recorded a video and uploaded it on his Instagram account 'he_man_nth'," police said.

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Govt issues order on age relaxation for class 1

BENGALURU, DHNS: The School Education and Literacy Department has issued an order relaxing admission age for class 1 by 60 days for the academic year 2026-27.

As per the order, the children seeking admission for class 1 will get a relaxation up to 60 days from June 1.

With this, children whose birth dates fall within 60 days after June 1 (Until July 30) are now eligible for admission to class 1.

Considering the requests submitted by parents, the government has given this special opportunity under Section 20 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. Instructions have also been issued to make necessary changes in the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) software to implement this order.

Appointments to CCBs across 3 districts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health and Family Welfare department has issued an order for the appointment of 72 people, including doctors, staff nurses and Group D workers, for the three new Critical Care Blocks (CCB) across the state.

The new CCBs have been opened in Davangere, Bagalkot and Dakshina Kannada (Wenlock hospital). Each unit will have 24 workers, including physician, an anesthesiologists, a surgen, 12 staff nurses and 9 Group D workers. As much as Rs 190 crore has been allocated for the appointment.

State to seek UNESCO tag for Hirebenakal, S'belagola & Lakkundi

'All 3 proposed sites meet multiple criteria'

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Department of Archaeology, Heritage and Museums is preparing proposals to send to UNESCO to consider Shravanabelagola, Lakkundi and Hirebenakal for the World Heritage Site list. While Hirebenakal has been in consideration for UNESCO's tentative list, the other two sites are making their debut.

Hirebenakkal, a major prehistoric megalithic site in Koppal district, has been on the tentative list for quite some time, according to an official. The historical site's time period is estimated to be between the New Stone Age (Neolithic Age) and the Iron Age. The site houses over 400 megaliths and contains some of the largest rock paintings in the country.

Shravanabelagola in Hassan district is a pilgrimage site of the Jain community, featuring about 40 temples. Built around 983 AD, the 58-foot-tall statue of Lord Gommateshwara (Bahubali) on the Vindyagiri hills is the tallest monolithic statue in the world. The site is popular for Mahamasthabisheka that takes place once in every 12 years.

Lakkundi, another significant historical and archaeological site, is known for its 10th-14th century Kalyani Chalukya architecture. A former capital of the Hoysala kingdom, Lakkundi features dozens of ancient and medieval temples and stepwells.

Speaking to *DH*, Devaraj A, Commissioner for Archaeology, Heritage and Museums, said, "The heritage tag will help in protecting the monuments better. We have sent in the proposals, after the verification of the list, a visit from the panellists of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), a branch of UNESCO to the site, and then it will be approved."

Though the tag will be given, no financial support will be provided by UNESCO; it will still be maintained by the government, he further said.

The Department of Archaeology, Heritage and Museums is planning to send a proposal to UNESCO to include the Megalithic site of Hirebenakal, the monolithic statue of Gommateshwara and other Jain temples of Shravanabelagola, and the ancient and medieval temples and stepwells of Lakkundi, in the World Heritage Site list.

UNESCO has about 10 criteria for a site to be considered as a world heritage site and the site should possess at least one criterion. Some of them include: A site to be a masterpiece, an example of a traditional human settlement, natural beauty or aesthetic and others.

According to the Commissioner, the proposed sites meet more than one criterion. Suresh Moona, historian and columnist, said, "It is a matter of pride if the heritage tags are given to a site. Though there are many eligible sites in Karnataka, we only have four tags."

"The tag will help in promoting tourism to the place, which, in turn, will provide a livelihood to hundreds of people. The maintenance of the place will also be up-scaled as the place will be a world site," he further said.

Karnataka currently has four world heritage sites - Hampi, Pattadakal, Western Ghats and the ensembles of the Hoysala temples, including Channakeshava Temple, Hoysaleswara Temple and Keshava Temple.

Morarji college PUC topper to be feted on April 14

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister for Social Welfare H C Mahadevappa on Friday said that Ankit Bheemappa Karatagi, a student of Morarji Desai Science PU College in Nidashosi, Belagavi district, who has secured 598 out of 600 marks in the 2026 second PUC examinations, would be felicitated with a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14.

Ankit Bheemappa Karatagi.

Addressing a news conference, he said the performance of residential PU colleges under the umbrella of the Social Welfare Department's Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) in this year's examinations outstripped their performance in 2025.

As against a pass percentage of 91.64% recorded by students of these schools last year, 97.22% of the schools' students cleared the exams this year.

"Of the 5,103 students from KREIS schools who appeared in the exams this year, 4,961 have passed," said Mahadevappa, adding that 2,321 had secured distinction, while 2,487 had been awarded first-class.

Ankit, with a score of 598/600, not only stood second on the list of state toppers, but also secured the top spot among students from all government colleges. "But for his score in English, in which he scored 98, he had a perfect score in the rest of the subjects," said Mahadevappa.

The minister said that the government has offered coaching for JEE/NEET/KCET examinations at all 72 residential PU colleges starting from the 2025-26 academic year to help rural students realise their dream of enrolling in professional courses such as engineering or medicine. "As many as 106 students from KREIS schools have cleared the JEE (Mains)-1 exam this year," he said.

He said, "The Morarji residential schools have been started on the model of Jawahar Navodaya Residential Schools run by the Union government to provide free and quality education to the rural talented SC/ST and Backward Class students, and education is being imparted in English medium. At present, 874 residential schools/colleges of 539 SC, 156 ST and 179 Backward Classes are functioning and catering education to 2,15,460 students."

Medical examination in absence of lawful arrest is impermissible in law: HC

Terms arrest of petitioner under NDPS Act 'patently illegal'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has said that a medical examination in the absence of a lawful arrest is impermissible in law. Justice M Nagaprasanna said this while holding the arrest of the petitioner in a case for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act as 'patently illegal'.

"Section 51 of the BNSS, which governs medical examination, can be invoked only upon the existence of a lawful arrest. A lawful arrest necessitates strict compliance with statutory safeguards, including communication of the grounds of arrest, recording of reasons and adherence to all mandatory procedural requirements. Where a blood sample is produced pursuant to an illegal arrest, the resulting medical and forensic report stands vitiated and cannot be relied upon by the prosecution," Justice Nagaprasanna said in his order.

The petitioner, a resident of KR Puram, in Bengaluru, was named as accused number 12 in a suo motu complaint by the Devanahalli police. The complaint is against organising a party without permission, on May 24 at a mansion near MVM School on Kannamangala Road. According to the complaint, participants had consumed intoxicating substances and hence a case was registered for offences under sections 20(b), 22(a) and 27(b) of the NDPS and BNS sections 292, 296 and 3(5).

The petitioner was arrested and released on the same day, after collecting the blood sample. It was argued on behalf of the petitioner that no contraband substance was recovered from her and contended that the arrest itself was not lawful. On the other hand, the police submitted that the petitioner was tested positive for cocaine consumption, based on the medical test conducted after the arrest.

The court noted that there is neither record of reasons to believe nor articulation of necessity, nor communication of grounds of arrest to the petitioner. "Arrest, in such circumstances, degenerates into empty ritual, away from the discipline of law and bereft of Constitutional propriety. Arrest is not a fleeting administrative act; it is a profound intrusion upon personal liberty. It must be preceded by reason, accompanied by transparency and justified by necessity. The absence of these fundamental elements renders the so-called arrest a legal nullity," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

Insofar as the collection of petitioner's blood sample, in the absence of a lawful arrest, the court said the procedural safeguards and legal prerequisites governing arrest were neither observed nor complied with, rendering the purported arrest invalid in the eye of law.

"The charge is solely founded upon the alleged consumption of a narcotic substance, as inferred from the blood sample. Once the blood sample itself is held to be illegally obtained, the very substratum of the prosecution case collapses; consequently, the continuation of proceedings against the petitioner would amount to an abuse of the process of the law and cannot be permitted," the court said.

West Asia crisis has hit supply of medicines: Dinesh

MANGALURU, DHNS: District in-Charge Minister and Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said that the supply of medicines has been affected due to the ongoing West Asia crisis.

He noted that suppliers handling orders for the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited have sought an additional 30 days to deliver certain medicines, citing disruptions caused by the crisis. Pharmaceutical companies are also facing production challenges due to shortages of essential ingredients. Rao warned that if the crisis continues, shortages of LPG and diesel could further impact manufacturers. However, he reassured that there are no major issues at present and there is no need for panic.

He added that petroleum products are interconnected, and the crisis could also affect the supply of bitumen. Urging the Centre to explore alternative sources beyond West Asia for crude oil and LPG, he said the Union government has a major responsibility to safeguard public interests.

On the issue of auto LPG shortage, he said the government must clearly explain the situation and outline alternative arrangements. He also pointed out that the prices of some medicines have increased due to rising production costs and urged the Centre to prevent further hikes.

MUSICAL TREAT

Vocalist Rahul Vellal performs at the 88th Sri Ramanavami Music Festival organised by the Sri Ramaseva Mandali at the Fort High School premises in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

Revise min wages to Rs 42,000 per month: AICCTU

BENGALURU, DHNS: Workers from various sectors and establishments gathered at the Labour Department on Friday and demanded the revision of minimum wages to Rs 42,000 per month.

"The protest highlighted the long-standing failure of the state government to revise statutory minimum wages for several scheduled employments, the last revision having been carried out in the year 2017, leaving workers to bear the brunt of a gross erosion of their real wages over the intervening years," the All India Central Council for Trade Unions said in a statement.

The AICCTU also demanded a comprehensive state-wide inspection of all establishments - private and public - to check compliance with minimum wage notifications. The delegation presented a memorandum to Joint Labour Commissioner Ravikumar.

Action sought against Sulibele for remarks against Muslim women

BENGALURU, DHNS

A group of prominent writers and social activists, under the banner of 'Jagruta Nagarika Karnataka', has submitted a formal representation to the state government and the women's commission, demanding legal action against Hindu right-wing orator Chakravarty Sulibele for his alleged derogatory remarks about Muslim women.

In a letter addressed to the government, the signatories expressed outrage over a viral video circulating on social media, in which Sulibele is purportedly seen making the remarks. The group alleged that "the speech is not only in poor taste but also a direct assault on the dignity of women and a blatant violation of civilised societal norms."

Prof S G Siddaramaiah stated that Sulibele's rhetoric goes beyond personal opinion, accusing him of "spreading naked lies to incite hatred against the community."

"It is imperative for all conscious citizens, especially women, to raise their voice against such uncivilised behaviour. These remarks are provocative and aimed at creating communal disharmony," he said.

Veteran writer K Marulasiddappa also condemned the statements, describing them as "deplorable". He further suggested that organisations claiming to be proponents of Indian culture should introspect and address the conduct of such speakers who lower the standard of public discourse.

The collective, which includes G Ramakrishna, Vijaya, Mavalli Shankar, and Banjagere Jayaprakash, urged the government to initiate immediate legal proceedings and called upon the women's commission to take suo motu cognizance of the matter and register a case against Sulibele for outraging the modesty and dignity of women.

Pigmy agents not biz facilitators: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

Pigmy agents employed by regional rural banks are not intermediaries appointed under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)-sanctioned model and hence cannot be called business facilitators, ruled the High Court of Karnataka. Justice M Nagaprasanna made this observation while setting aside the show-cause notice issued to the Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank, Belagavi.

The notice was issued alleging that the bank failed to deposit tax under the reverse charge mechanism on the commission paid to the pigmy agents in the urban branches. The bank contended that pigmy agents are its employees and hence, no GST can be levied on the salary paid to them. It was also contended by the bank that pigmy agents do not come under the ambit of business facilitators to attract reverse charge levy.

On the other hand, it was submitted on behalf of the tax authorities that the GST charged on the commission payable to pigmy agents is in consonance with the provisions of the CGST Act. The pigmy agents are paid commission and not salary, in this case and therefore, the bank would be liable to pay GST in terms of Section 9(3) of the CGST Act on the commission paid, the authorities argued.

The court cited the apex court judgement and said that the pigmy agents operate under the command, control and disciplinary framework of the bank, their remuneration, though termed as commission, is akin to wages, which is further evidenced by deduction of tax at source.

"The bank exercises pervasive control over their functioning; the agents are required to maintain security deposits; they are assured minimum remuneration; they are entitled to benefits such as gratuity; and their disengagement is regulated by notice requirements. These are not indicia of an independent contractor, but hallmarks of employment," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

People's convention against KPS Magnet schools

BENGALURU, DHNS: Several organisations, including All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO) and Mid-Day Meal Workers' Association, held a people's convention against the government's decision to identify magnet schools and shift students as a part of setting up of Karnataka Public Schools (KPS).

Taking part in the protest on Friday, writer K Marulasiddappa accused the state government of snatching away the people's right to education. "All the governments have consistently protected the interests of wealthy businessmen, while neglecting the poor. By snatching away the people's right to education, healthcare and employment, the government is attempting to silence them with guarantees," he added.

The senior writer gave a call for the people to unite to fight for the neighborhood schools against a government that fails to understand their importance.

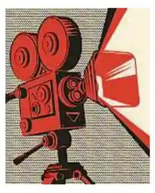
Development Educationist V P Niranjanaradhya said, "In its election manifesto, Congress promised to completely reject NEP 2020 and strengthen education by introducing SEP. However, it is shameful that they have now undemocratically implemented the KPS magnet scheme."

Writer S G Siddaramaiah called the state government's decision to identify magnet schools as a move "highly condemnable and shameful".

Writers Sabiha Bhumi Gowda, A Murigeppa, hundreds of schoolchildren, mid-day meal workers and others took part in the convention.

Filmmaking training for women

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rotary Club of Bangalore's 'RCB International Film Festival for a Cause — 3.0' will screen seven films from Vietnam, Iran, Kazakhstan and Bhutan, along with regional Indian films. The festival aims to train women from marginalised backgrounds in various technical aspects of filmmaking.



This year, film critic and artistic director Vidyashankar N will train participants in script-writing, storytelling and dialogue writing.

The festival will be held on April 11 and 12, from 9 am to 7 pm, at Khincha Hall, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road. Details are available at *rcb1934.in*

GBA to conduct drone-based surveys to identify choke points in drains

BENGALURU, DHNS

To identify choke points in storm water drains (SWDs) and prevent flooding, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to conduct drone-based visual surveys.

Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development Department), who held a review meeting on monsoon preparedness, has instructed officials to conduct drone surveys before and after the desilting of storm water drains within GBA limits and submit detailed reports.

"Senior officials of respective city corporations, along with traffic police authorities, were instructed to personally visit flood-prone areas, inspect them, and resolve issues. Side drains along roads must be desilted and kept clean. Shoulder drains should also be cleared to ensure smooth flow of rainwater into side drains without obstruction," GBA said in a statement.

Before the onset of the monsoon, the corporations will also form teams with officials from BESCOM and BWSSB. Additionally, a list of SDRF and NDRF personnel will be prepared.

"Subdivision-level control rooms must be made operational, and all necessary equipment for the monsoon should be kept ready," Nath said.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao also directed officials to identify and clear choke points in side drains along arterial roads to ensure uninterrupted water flow during rains. He also instructed the installation of cameras near SWDs and coordination with KSNDMC for necessary repair works.

On Friday, Girinath and Rao, along with senior officials from the five city corporations, visited various flood-prone areas in the city.

Flood-prone areas and proposed solutions

Kendriya Vihar and Kogilu Junction: A notification has been issued for the construction of a 2.7 km-long and 35-metre-wide SWD from the Venkatal Lake spillway of Yelahanka Lake to Jakkur Lake. A 1.5 km RCC retaining wall-supported SWD has been completed.

Manyata Tech Park: Two artificial drains of 1.2 km from Veeranapalya to Hebbal Valley are under construction, with 800 metres of RCC retaining wall already completed.

Tata Nagar: A 900-metre-long, 20-foot-wide storm water drain is being constructed from Dodda Bommasandra Lake to Tata Nagar, with retaining walls also being raised.

Hebbal: Comprehensive development works are underway at Hebbal Lake, covering 192 acres, at a cost of Rs 15.90 crore.

Hebbal Junction: A system is being developed to divert rainwater into the lake from beneath Hebbal Junction. Permanent solutions have been implemented for four waterlogging points, including the airport-direction main carriageway down ramp, service roads, and the bus stop area.

HBR Layout: An intake well is being constructed by BWSSB to divert water towards Hebbal.

Silk Board Junction: Culvert work has been undertaken to prevent waterlogging during rains. The work involves increasing the height from 1.5 metres to 3.5 metres and installing gratings.

Blue Line trains arriving in May but depot link may delay trial runs

Silk Board-KR Puram work signals recurring hurdles

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Metro's Blue Line is set to receive its first two trains by May but trial runs on the Silk Board Junction-KR Puram stretch will begin only after the viaduct and track connectivity to the depot are completed, sources in the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said.

This may pose another recurring hurdle in opening metro lines: the Yellow Line work was over but there were not enough trains; the Pink Line has enough trains but their statutory approvals are yet to come.

According to the sources, BEML is in the process of delivering two Blue Line rakes — Trainsets 7 and 8 in the overall contract — under a 53-train order.

Of the 53 trains, 16 each are for the Pink Line and Phase 2A (Silk Board Junction-KR Puram, 19.75 km) and 21 are for Phase 2B (KR Puram-Kempegowda International Airport, 38.44 km). Phases 2A and 2B are collectively known as the Blue Line (58.19 km).

BEML has delivered five Pink Line trains and will deliver the sixth shortly, the sources said. "We've asked it to deliver trainsets 7 and 8 for the Blue Line, possibly around May. All trains have the same signalling technology and features. The only difference will be the Blue Line branding through precision-applied stickers and luggage racks for airport passengers," the sources added.

The trains will undergo static tests before mainline trial runs. After train delivery, trial runs typically take a month to start. But that may not be the case with the Silk Board Junction-KR Puram section.

Civil work on this line is about 85% complete but connectivity to the Baiyappanahalli depot is still not ready.

"For trains to run (on the mainline), viaduct and track work up to the depot must be completed. The work is still going on," the sources noted.

The depot is being upgraded with 28 stabling lines for the Blue Line. Two elevated tracks will provide depot access near Kasturinagar and KR Puram. The work was delayed due to land acquisition hurdles.

The BMRCL aims to complete Phase 2A this December and Phase 2B by December next year.

Meanwhile, key Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) trials for the Pink Line trains have yet to begin as the BMRCL is still addressing the design approval queries raised by the Railway Board, the sources said.

RDSO certification, followed by safety clearances, is necessary for new trains. The process will take about two months, impacting plans to open the Pink Line's 7.5-km Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere section by May.

Approvals for Pink Line trains will hold good for the Blue Line, too, given their shared signalling technology (Communications Based Train Control (CBTC), the sources said.

A BEML spokesperson declined to comment.

Meanwhile, the Yellow Line is set to receive three more trains. With eight trains, it currently has a peak-hour frequency of nine minutes. The ninth train is expected next week, while the 10th and 11th trains will arrive in May.

"There will be a five-minute frequency when 15 trains arrive. Two trains will be kept on spare," the official said.

Metro construction in HSR Layout on the Outer Ring Road.
DH FILE PHOTO

Blue Line update

- BEML to deliver two Blue Line trains by May
- Silk Board-KR Puram trial run depends on viaduct and track connectivity to the Baiyappanahalli depot.
- Overall Civil work 85% done.

Peenya flyover shut, brace for traffic diversions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commuters on Tumakuru Road (NH-4) are in for a testing week as the Sri Shivakumar Swamiji Flyover (Peenya Elevated Flyover) will be completely closed to all vehicular traffic for 102 hours starting April 13.

The closure, requested by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), is to facilitate final load testing following the completion of cable repair and replacement works on the structure. The restriction will be in place from 5 am on April 13 (Monday) to 11 am on April 17 (Friday).

According to Peenya Traffic Police, the restriction applies to the entire stretch from the Kennametal Widia upper ramp to the SRS down ramp, effectively blocking the flyover from CMTI Junction to the Parle-G toll.

Alternative routes

Nelamangala to Bengaluru-bound traffic: Vehicles arriving from Nelamangala must divert at the Kennametal Widia ramp and use the NH-4 surface road and service road via 8th Mile, Dasarahalli, Jalahalli Cross, Peenya Police Station Junction, SRS Junction and Gorguntepalya.

CMTI to Nelamangala-bound traffic: Vehicles heading out of the city towards Nelamangala must use the NH-4 surface road and service road via SRS Junction, Peenya Police Station Junction, Jalahalli Cross, Dasarahalli, 8th Mile and Parle-G toll.

Summer special train from Bengaluru to Mumbai

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways will operate a weekly special train between Bengaluru and Mumbai via Tumakuru, Davangere, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belagavi during the summer.

Train number 01013 will depart from LTT Mumbai at 11.50 am every Sunday from April 19 to July 12 and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 11.45 am on Monday.

In the return direction, train number 01014 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 1.50 pm every Monday from April 20 to July 13 and reach LTT Mumbai at 1.30 pm on Tuesday, according to South Western Railway (SWR).

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. : LRC-3_CT_V-WRAP-PT-III, dated 09.04.2026. e-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (LHB), Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah, Pin-711204 from tenderers having financial & technically capabilities for the following work : **Name of Work :** "Supply & Apply of Vinyl Wrapping on Coach exteriors except End Panels of Duronto Coaches (LHB), Humsafar coaches (LHB), LHB (Rajdhani, Satabdi & Jan Satabdi Colour) coaches, Vande Bharat & Amrit Bharat coaches with anti-Graffiti Measures". **Approx. Cost of Works :** ₹ 3,64,10,167/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 7,28,200/-. **Tender Document Cost :** 0.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 30.04.2026 at 14.00 hrs. **Website where complete details of Tender is available: www.ireps.gov.in** Tenderers are advised to check IREPS portal frequently to find, if any, Corrigendum is published after publication of Tender Notice.

(MISC-09/2026-27)

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

GOODS AND GOODS AND SERVICES TAX NETWORK

Corporate Office, 4th Floor, East Wing, World Mark-1, Aerocity, Delhi-110037
Tel: 011-49111200, www.gstn.org.in

TENDER NOTICE

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), A Government Enterprise, invites bids from eligible firms / companies for the following goods/ services:

Particulars	GeM Bid Number	Last date & time of submission of Bid
Tender for supply & Installation of Laptops - 30 nos.	GEM/2026/B/734126	16.04.2026 15:00 Hours

Tender has been floated on GeM and interested eligible bidders are requested to submit their bid on GeM portal.

Sanjay Sharma
Vice President (P&C)

CBC 15319/11/0002/2627

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 01/Bridges/UBL 2026-27
Dated : 06-04-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Hubballi Division :	Rs. 1,17,02,751/-

Sub Work-I : Painting for the Bridges and steel structure due for year : 2026-2027. Bridge No. 208Up, 212DN, 218DN, 225A, 184DN, ROB 56 A, 192A, 121 A and IOH Shed Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) in Londa (LD) - Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) and Londa (LD) - Miraj (MRJ) Section. **Sub Work-II** : Greasing of bearings of Br. No. 16, 102DN, 208UP, 102CRZ, 3UP, Titte (TT)/ Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) in Londa (LD) - Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) & Londa (LD) - Miraj (MRJ) Section due for the year : 2026-27 and **Sub Work-III** : Proposal for replacement of elastomeric bearings for Bridge No. 79, 218 in Londa (LD) - Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) Section, under the jurisdiction of SSE/Br/Belagavi (BGM)

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 06-05-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination
PUB/21/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Hubballi**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बालाघाट

ई–टेंडरिंग निविदा आमंत्रण

बालाघाट जिले के विकासखण्डों में हैण्डपम्पों के संधारण कार्य की मुहरबंद निविदा प्रपत्र "अ 2.10" (प्रतिशत दर) में एम.पी. टेंडर्स पद्धति के माध्यम से लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है जो कि एम.पी. टेंडर्स सिस्टम पोर्टल के **http://mptenders.gov.in** द्वारा निर्धारित शेड्यूल के अनुसार निविदा प्रक्रिया की जायेगी।

ई-टेंडरिंग क्रमांक	निविदा क्रमांक / आमंत्रित दिनांक	कार्य का अनुमानित लागत (राशि रू. लाख में)	धरोहर राशि (रूपये में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु. में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की समयावधि	निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की एवं दर प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि	ऑन लाइन खोलने की तिथि	पंजीकृत ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
2026_PHED_497946_1	01/07.04.2026	24.51	49020/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	लोक निर्माण विभाग में नवीन केन्द्रीयकृत पंजीयन
2026_PHED_497948_1	02/07.04.2026	22	44000/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497950_1	03/07.04.2026	24.84	49680/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497952_1	04/07.04.2026	22.74	45480/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497955_1	05/07.04.2026	20.99	41980/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497958_1	06/07.04.2026	23.06	46120/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497960_1	07/07.04.2026	23.45	46900/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497961_1	08/07.04.2026	23.56	47120/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497962_1	09/07.04.2026	21.45	42900/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	
2026_PHED_497963_1	10/07.04.2026	25.34	50680/-	5000/-	1 वर्ष	22.04.2026	24.04.2026	

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना, विस्तृत विवरण एवं Key dates की जानकारी वेबसाइट **http://mptenders.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

नोट : 1. सभी इच्छुक ठेकेदार ई–टेंडरिंग पोर्टल **(http://mptenders.gov.in)** में पंजीयन करायें।

2. निविदा में भविष्य में किये जाने वाले समस्त संशोधनों को समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा। यह संशोधन केवल **http://mptenders.gov.in** पर ही प्रकाशित किये जायेंगे।

निविदा प्रपत्र निर्धारित शुल्क क्रेडिट कार्ड, ए.टी.एम. कम डेबिट कार्ड अथवा इंटरनेट बैंकिंग अकाउंट के माध्यम से उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर भुगतान कर केवल आन लाईन पर ही क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत निविदा एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त उल्लिखित वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन यंत्री
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्डए,बालाघाट (म.प्र.) (07632–241131)

G-11315 / 26

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Works Department
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

Re- eTender No.- 04/ 2026-27- 451 (Encl) **Ranchi, Dated: 10.04.2026**

PR No- 364457 dated 18.10.2025

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna PM-JANMAN (Batch-1, 2025-26).

Sr. No	District Name	Block Name	Tendering Package	Road Name / Bridge Name	Road Length (Kms)	Sanction Construction Cost (in lakhs)	Sanction Maintenace Cost (in lakhs)	Total Sanction Cost with Maint. (in lakhs)	Total Package Cost (in lakhs)	Earnest Money (In Lakh)	Time of Completion (in month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Sahibganj	Borio	JH-19-PMJANMAN-SBJ-01 / 2025-26 (2nd Call)	L023-BANJHI TO Narganj reo road to Dey pahar via Champa	6.2	615.74	49.59	665.33	1250.67	25.02	15
	Sahibganj	Borio		L044-Sahebganj borio pwd road ro Tetariya	0.8	78.98	0.35	79.33			
	Sahibganj	Borio		L043-Sahebganj Birio pwd road to PWD Road Paharpur Jabardaha	1.355	131.03	8.6	139.63			
	Sahibganj	Borio		L047-Sahibganj Borio road Paharpur to Maridih via Tala tola	2.45	233.48	8.83	242.31			
	Sahibganj	Borio		L038-Murgabani to Bara Bangon	1.46	108.84	15.23	124.07			
2	Sahebganj	Mandro	JH-19-PMJANMAN-SBJ-09 / 2025-26 (2nd Call)	L025-Mines Road to Tetaria	1.85	125.63	6.92	132.55	1229.59	24.59	15
		Mandro		L032-Mirzachauki Karamtola PMGSY Road to Jani	1.00	83.26	3.45	86.71			
		Mandro		L026-Kolbhanga to Kalajor via Chatra	11.05	888.25	50.74	938.99			
		Borio		L030-Churi reo road to ghuti	0.75	71.01	0.33	71.34			
		Total			**26.915**	**2336.22**	**144.04**	**2480.26**	**2480.26**		

The bid should be submitted online in the website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in**. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid. Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding		Last date & time of seeking clarification	Last date and time of bid submission	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	
		From	To			Technical bid	Financial bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
Engineer in Chief, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Engineer in Chief JSRRDA, Ranchi	**13.04.2026 at 10.00 AM**	**28.04.2026 upto 5.00 PM**	**20.04.2026 upto 2.00 PM**	**28.04.2026 upto 5.00 PM**	**28.04.2026 at 05.30 PM**	To be informed later

** Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract. ** Cost may change.*

Note :- 1. Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
2. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited **online** in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
3. In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
4. Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
5. Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD or any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
6. Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
7. In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
8. Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at **jh-ce@pmgsy.nic.in** Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
9. Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
10. Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
11. For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
12. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/reason.

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in** as per schedule mentioned above.

Engineer-in- Chief
Rural Works Department- Cum-JSRRDA, Ranchi

PR 377161 (Rural Work Department) 26-27 (D)

S. E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/11, dated 10.04.2026. Open e-Tenders for "E" Procurement system are invited by Principal Chief Materials Manager, S.E.Railway, Headquarters Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India, which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in ₹)
1	**30263005**	07.05.2026	Hytrel Lower Washer etc.	8900 Nos.	12,72,270/-
2	**30263498**	04.05.2026	Axle Box Housing for ICF coaches etc.	500 Nos.	2,71,400/-
3	**38264068**	04.05.2026	Brake wear plate (Pocket liner) for Casnub Bogie etc.	36000 Nos.	1,67,370/-
4	**65235034C**	21.04.2026	Supply, installation, commissioning & proving out of EOT Crane, capacity 35/5 ton	01 No.	2,01,110/-
5	**60260040**	30.04.2026	Manufacture and Supply of Metal Liner for 60 Kg etc.	3000000 Nos.	15,24,000/-
6	**6026RGC03**	28.04.2026	Manufacturing and Supply of 10 mm thick pocket type Nylon Cord Reinforced Grooved Rubber Sole Plates	500 Set.	18,88,000/-
7	**65255037**	12.05.2026	Diesel Generator set 750 KVA (Pre-bid meeting on 20.04.26 16:00 hrs at PCMM Meeting Room/ SER/GRC/Kol-43)	01 No.	2,60,000/-
8	**65245061B**	05.05.2026	Rotary screw electrical driven Air Compressor 500 CFM	04 Nos.	2,26,800/-
9	**47255026A**	30.04.2026	Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of outdoor type distribution transformer of capacity 11KV/0.415 KV, 250 KVA etc.	12 Nos.	1,16,490/-
10	**AD265162**	04.05.2026	Set of Aluminum feeder pipes and accessories for LHB AC coaches etc.	150 Set	1,98,240/-
11	**56255238A**	05.05.2026	Supply, Installation and commissioning of SMPS based IPS etc.	08 Set	1,24,800/-
12	**33263092**	03.06.2026	Inter car Gangway Mounting etc.	1030 Nos.	11,95,420/-
13	**33260099**	11.05.2026	Hinged cover Assembly for Blind socket etc.	9100 Nos.	8,80,340/-
14	**33260049**	20.05.2026	Roller Blind Complete for LHB AC-3 Tier etc.	45 Set	1,12,500/-
15	**33263222**	20.05.2026	Set of Bite type Fittings for LHB coach etc.	260 Set	2,42,070/-
16	**33263280**	18.05.2026	Double Inlet (Type-I) centrifugal blower	1270 Nos.	54,420/-
17	**33263052**	18.05.2026	Roll Link	3287 Nos.	1,25,670/-
18	**33263021**	18.05.2026	Traction Centre (Lever).	1990 Nos.	2,20,260/-
19	**33263030**	15.05.2026	Anti Roll Bar	1940 Nos.	2,38,080/-
20	**33263029**	13.05.2026	Anti Roll Bar Fork	3950 Nos.	4,13,730/-
21	**33260004**	06.05.2026	Cushioning material for Seat and Berth etc.	140 Set	2,87,450/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-35)**

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Yoga demonstration, lecture & Bharatanatyam performance: Lecture on "Role of Yoga in Holistic Personality Development" by Ramu; Bharatanatyam by Asha Kumar; K V M Accounts Officers' Association, Anand Rao Circle; 10 am

Book release of M Somayya: Guests Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Tejasvi Surya, A S Ponanna; Music concert by Shivashree Skandaprasad and troupe; Field Marshal Cariappa Convention Centre, Vasanthnagar; 10 am

Launch of free children's theatre workshop (in memory of C. Lakshman): Ranga Kahale Children's Home; Uttarahalli; 10 am

CULTURAL

Theatre performances – "Gampara Gumpu" & "Lakshmikataksha": Written by Dasharathi Dixit; Directed by S Sripad; "Lakshmikataksha" directed by Kishore Kumar; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 4.30 pm onwards

33rd Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Vocal Abhishek Raghuram; Violin H M Smitha; Mridangam Tumakuru B Ravishankar; Khanjira Sunad Anoor; Srivani Kala Kendra; Basaveshwaranagar; 6.30 pm

Dance drama – "Swapna Vrindavana": Prabhat Arts International; Ravindra Kalakshetra, J C Road; 7 pm

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	35.4°C
Minimum	24.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	41%
Sunset (April 11)	6:32 pm
Sunrise (April 12)	6:10 am
Moonrise	00:43 am
Moonset	00:14 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Corrigendum

In the report titled 'Heritage, Water, Unesco bid: Citizens oppose Metro's Lalbagh plan on all fronts', published in these columns on April 10, 2026, it was wrongly stated that citizen groups were opposing Metro plans in Lalbagh and demanding that the project bypass Lalbagh. Their opposition pertains to the proposed North-South tunnel road project and its alleged impact on Lalbagh. The error is inadvertent and regretted.

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Act against fin companies deducting Gruha Lakshmi money: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has asked authorities to act on complaints that some private finance companies and microfinance institutions are "forcibly deducting" money from the bank accounts of Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries, who receive Rs 2,000 every month by the government.

MLC Dinesh Gooligowda.

Siddaramaiah sought action based on a petition by Congress MLC Dinesh Gooligowda, who is also the vice-chairperson of the Karnataka State Guarantee Implementation Authority.

The CM directed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to issue necessary instructions to all zilla panchayat chief executive officers. In turn, Rajneesh has asked the additional chief secretary-cum-development commissioner and heads of the home and urban development departments to take urgent action.

Gooligowda said some private finance companies, microfinance institutions and self-help groups were forcibly deducting the Gruha Lakshmi money for loan repayments.

"In some cases, pressure is being exerted on bank officials and beneficiaries are being threatened to part with the money," he said.

DINESH GOOLIGOWDA
Congress MLC

"Some private and microfinance companies are forcibly deducting the Gruha Lakshmi money for loan repayments.

Davangere South bypoll: Cong leaders allege internal sabotage

Some senior leaders conspired to damage party: Saleem Ahmed

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar campaign for Congress candidate Samarth Mallikarjun (centre) in Davangere. DH FILE PHOTO

BENGALURU, DHNS

The knives are out for a "conspirator" in the ruling Congress after the Davangere South bypoll, with some party leaders from the Muslim community on Friday alleging a "big conspiracy" by one of their own to undermine the chances of the official candidate.

They alleged that the "conspirator" projected the Congress as having "betrayed" the Muslims and also hurt the prospects of party candidate Samarth Mallikarjun, grandson of deceased MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa.

During a joint press meet held at the KPCC office in Bengaluru, MLC Saleem Ahmed and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, along with several leaders from the Muslim community, said that ahead of the bypoll, massive social media campaigns by the BJP, the SDPI and Independents had painted the Congress as a "betrayer" of the community.

MLC Saleem said they were saddened that some senior Congress leaders "conspired to damage the party". "But the result will prove that all communities, including the minorities, have supported the Congress candidate," he said, claiming that the party's internal survey predicted a Congress victory in both seats that went to the bypolls.

Recalling a meeting of senior party leaders held on Eid, MLA Rizwan said: "All of us were in the meeting convened by the CM, DyCM and AICC general secretary (Randeep) Surjewala and there was a consensus over Samarth's candidature. We decided to work for the party candidate. But some tried to project a different face outside, calling it (Samarth's candidature) a betrayal," rued Rizwan, as he named those who campaigned for the official candidate.

While he mentioned NA Harris, Tanveer Sait, Rahim Khan, Yasir Pathan Khan, Kaneez Fathima and Balkees Banu, one prominent name was missing — Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan.

When reporters asked Rizwan who hatched the alleged conspiracy, he said: "The party leadership knows about it. They don't need to know about it from the media. I will say nothing more."

According to party insiders, Zameer, MLC Abdul Jabbar and CM's political secretary Nasir Ahmed could face tough questions from the leadership if the bypoll result doesn't favour the Congress.

Zameer had stayed out of the bypoll campaign citing his responsibilities related to the Kerala Assembly election. However, he had addressed a press meet along with Samarth's father and horticulture minister, S S Mallikarjun, in Davangere on the request of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Saleem and Rizwan were tasked with quelling an internal rebellion after the party denied the ticket to a candidate from the Muslim community. Though the duo convinced rebel candidate Sadiq Pailwan to retire from the contest, 13 other Muslim candidates remained in the fray, including SDPI's Afsar Kodlipete, expelled Congress leader H Suban Sab and businessman Khadar Adil Basha. The resentment in the community is learnt to have stayed through the bypoll.

Rizwan, however, admitted that leaders from the community had "faltered" by proposing a single candidate name before the party leadership. "It is true we asked for the ticket and arrived at a consensus before proposing MLC Abdul Jabbar's name. But some felt he was not popular. That was a setback. We should have given three to four names instead of one, or just asked SS Mallikarjun to pick a Muslim candidate. It was our mistake," he reasoned.

SSLC grading system: High Court bins PIL against minister's statement

Slaps Rs 1 lakh cost on petitioners

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has imposed Rs 1 lakh cost and dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking setting aside of School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa's statement about introduction of grading system for the third language in the SSLC examination.

The petitioners contended that the statement was against public interest and derogatory. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha said the petition was filed for want of publicity.

The petitioners S Venkatesh and his wife H N Chandana, residents of Nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, stated that the minister's statement was extremely derogatory, and requested the court to exercise its extraordinary jurisdiction to quash the news item in the newspaper. "We find this is really not a litigation in the interest of the public, but more an interest of seeking publicity. We accordingly dismiss the present petition," the bench said.

The division bench initially imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 payable to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. The advocate for the petitioner further submitted that the press statement was intended to do away with Hindi.

At this stage, the bench observed that no such statement, about doing away with Hindi, appeared in the newspapers. "This statement is completely erroneous, and no such statement appeared in the newspaper. This establishes that the present petition is a motivated one maybe to seek publicity, the bench further observed while increasing the cost amount to Rs 1 lakh. On March 29, the minister in a press statement said that the SSLC students would not be awarded a score for the third language, instead will get grades. The minister said this was aimed at reducing pressure on students, many of whom fail in Hindi subject.

The minister had stated that over 7.5 lakh students opted Hindi as their third language. According to the petitioners, such a decision would seriously affect the children who have appeared for the SSLC examination this year.

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy visits Sri Chamundeshwari Devi temple at the Chamundi Hill in Mysuru on Friday.

CM using son for 'extortion', charges HDK

MYSURU, DHNS

Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah appointed his son to engage in 'collection' and 'extortion' activities, a claim purportedly known to government officials.

Addressing the media, Kumaraswamy rebuffed Siddaramaiah's accusations of promoting family politics, asserting that he did not thrust his son Nikhil into politics for gains but rather in response to the people's call.

"In contrast, Siddaramaiah's son (MLC Yathindra) is being used for illegal collections," he claimed.

Kumaraswamy recalled the emotional aftermath of the 1999 elections, highlighting a moment when Siddaramaiah, overwhelmed by defeat, sought solace from his father, former prime minister H D Deve Gowda.

"I saw him shed tears. Deve Gowda consoled him and arranged alternatives, which Siddaramaiah has conveniently forgotten," Kumaraswamy remarked.

He went on to charge Siddaramaiah with betrayal over the AHINDA movement, stating that the CM 'stabbed the party in the back' in 2006 when he left JD(S).

Kumaraswamy challenged Siddaramaiah to leave the Congress, form his own front, and win seats independently, questioning his commitment to the communities he claims to represent.

With an eye on Congress's future in Karnataka, Kumaraswamy predicted that Siddaramaiah would drive the party to its demise.

He suggested that real jealousy towards Siddaramaiah's position arose from within his own party, as many leaders awaited his failure.

In jest, Kumaraswamy commented on the internal struggles over the chief minister's position within Congress, indicating that Siddaramaiah would not relinquish his role while rivals within the party sought divine intervention for the same.

Kumaraswamy promised to attract more factories to Karnataka, provided the state government engaged with him effectively.

H D KUMARASWAMY
Union minister

"I have not brought my son Nikhil into politics for extortion. He entered public life due to the people's demand.

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Governor clears 10 out of 11 bills; withholds ballot paper bill

Legislation aims to hold Panchayat polls in a free, fair and transparent manner

BENGALURU, DHNS

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has cleared ten bills out of the eleven that were passed in the recent legislature sessions, but is yet to give his assent to a legislation that replaces Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with paper ballots in Panchayat elections.

The ten bills cleared by Gehlot include one that criminalises 'honour' crimes against inter-caste couples. The sources confirmed that, except for the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which proposes reintroduction of Ballot paper in place of EVMs, Gelhot has approved the rest of the ten bills.

Sources said the bill to replace EVMs with ballot paper for elections to Gram, Taluk and Zila Panchaya elections aims to ensure free, fair and transparent elections, safeguard the secrecy of voting, and address concerns raised over the reliability of EVMs, and is under verification before the governor.

It can be recalled that the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026, had witnessed a day-long debate in both the Legislative Assembly and Council, despite the members of the opposition BJP and JD(S) walking out after the discussion on the bill, expressing their disagreement with the proposed amendments in both the Houses. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka tore up a copy of the bill, terming it 'retrograde', before staging a walkout.

According to the sources, the bill, which is under verification, is likely to be returned. "The governor has some reservations and objections regarding the bill. As he has cleared all the other bills, it is unlikely that he would give a nod for this particular bill," the source opined.

Government sources believe that the governor might clear the bill, as 14 states, including some BJO-governed states, have ballot papers for local body elections.

The governor has cleared the following bills: The Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2026 (Eva Nammava Bill); The Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitisation Bill, 2026 to establish the Karnataka Manuscripts Authority for the survey, conservation, and digitisation of ancient manuscripts; The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Reduces taxes for contract buses and sleeper coaches; Karnataka Appropriation (No 2) Bill, 2026: Pertains to budgetary allocations for 2026-27 and The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2026: Pertains to budgetary allocations for 2026-27.

He has also cleared the Karnataka Tax on Profession, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Amends the professional tax structure; The Karnataka Municipalities and Certain other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Amends the Municipalities Act, 1964 and Municipal Corporations Act, 1976; The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Addresses the transfer of police officers; The Karnataka Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Aligns the allowances and service conditions of the Lokayukta with Supreme Court judges and The Karnataka Government Educational Institution's Lands (Protection and Regularisation) Bill, 2026: Pertains to the management of educational institution lands.

Missing Kerala schoolgirl found dead near Manikyadhara Falls

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

The body of a Kerala schoolgirl, who had gone missing near the Manikyadhara Falls in the Chandradrona hill range, was found on Friday afternoon, three days after she disappeared.

The girl's body was first spotted in a deep gorge opposite the viewing tower near the falls through a drone camera.

Rescue personnel later reached the spot and confirmed that it was the body of the missing 16-year-old, a class 10 student who had recently appeared for the SSLC examination.

There is an estimated 20-metre slope in front of the viewing tower, and the body was located further down in a gorge nearly 2,000 feet deep.

Police suspect that the girl may have slipped and fallen into the gorge or may have jumped on her own. They indicated that any other causes would be clarified after the post-mortem report is received.

More than 40 members of a family from Palakkad in Kerala had come on a tour to Chikkamagaluru district. She went missing around 5.30 pm on April 7 amid heavy crowds near Manikyadhara Falls. Police had been conducting continuous search operations for the past three days.

Deputy Commissioner N M Nagaraj, IGP (Western Range) Amit Singh, and Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayama were present at the site, along with Kerala Congress Working President Sandeep Varier.

Relatives of the girl have alleged that there were no CCTV cameras at such a popular tourist spot. They expressed that if cameras had been installed, it might have been possible to determine what exactly happened and demanded a thorough investigation into the death.

A police official noted that, as the case is sensitive, the post-mortem examination will be conducted by expert doctors.

The family members were inconsolable following the recovery of the body, as local police, forest staff, and a team from the State Disaster Response Force had joined efforts to trace the girl over the past three days.

Nadoja S R Ramaswamy passes away at 88

BENGALURU, DHNS

S R Ramaswamy

Veteran journalist, eminent litterateur, and former president of Rashtrotthana Parishat, Nadoja S R Ramaswamy, passed away here on Friday morning. He was 88. Sources close to the family stated that Ramaswamy had been battling age-related ailments for some time.

A towering figure in Kannada literature and public life, Ramaswamy also served as the honorary editor of Rashtrotthana Sahitya for several decades. Sources confirmed that he breathed his last early this morning.

Born on October 29, 1937, Sondekoppa Ramachandrasastri Ramaswamy emerged as a towering figure in the Kannada cultural landscape over a career spanning several decades. A prolific writer, he authored over 50 books including his popular collection of portraits: *'Deevatigegalu'* and *'Deepthimantaru'*, penned more than 2,000 articles on subjects ranging from art and literature to environmental conservation and rural development.

Ramaswamy was widely respected for his role as a fearless commentator on social, environmental, and political issues. As a protégé of the legendary D V Gundappa (DVG), he carried forward the legacy of value-based journalism. He served as the editor of the monthly Utthana for over four decades, shaping the perspectives of generations of readers.

In recognition of his immense contribution to literature and journalism, he was conferred with the prestigious Nadoja award by the Kannada University, Hampi, and was a recipient of the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award.

The mortal remains of the veteran scholar were kept for public viewing at Keshava Shilpa, the headquarters of Rashtrotthana Parishat. He is survived by a vast circle of students, admirers and the literary community at large.

TP chief officer who gave Lokayukta the slip arrested

KAVITALA (RAICHUR DISTRICT), DHNS: The chief officer of the Sirwar Town Panchayat, who had given Lokayukta police the slip, and was on the run, was on Friday arrested, along with the money he had received in bribe, at a friend's house in Kavital in Raichur district.

Suresh Shetty had reportedly demanded a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from G Raghuram Reddy to issue the e-khata for the latter's new layout. Reddy subsequently lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta police.

In the evening on Thursday, Shetty, after receiving Rs 1 lakh from Reddy, fled the spot by car. Although the Lokayukta cops gave chase in bikes, they were unable to catch him. However, the car that he had used for his escape was spotted in the surroundings of Kalmata in Kavital, and the police were able to zero in on Shetty's location by tracking his mobile.

Suresh Shetty

Shetty was taken to the Government Guest House in Kavital where he was interrogated, after which he was taken to the local Community Health Centre for a medical examination.

Raid on Belagavi DUDC AEE's house unearths 6 kg gold, 5 kg silver

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The jewels seized by the Lokayukta officials during a raid on the house of District Urban Development Cell Assistant Executive Engineer Ajaysingh Bapusingh Rajapur's house in Belagavi on Friday.

Lokayukta officials found 6 kg of gold, 5 kg of silver and more than Rs 3 crore tucked away in fixed deposits during a raid on the house of District Urban Development Cell Assistant Executive Engineer (DU DC AEE) Ajaysingh Bapusingh Rajapur's house on Friday.

Lokayukta officials have so far confiscated 5.96 kg of gold, 5 kg of silver ornaments, documents of fixed deposits amounting to Rs 3.12 crore, a luxury car and a bike. The total value of his assets is estimated to be more than Rs 14 crore, with Lokayukta officials adding that the investigation into the officer's disproportionate assets would continue.

Lokayukta police carried out the raid after a case was registered under the provisions of anti-corruption laws. Rajapur works in the Urban Development Cell at the Belagavi Deputy Commissioner's office. On Friday, Lokayukta police raided seven locations simultaneously, including Rajapur's house, office and bank.

In addition to his movable assets, Rajapur owns three houses in Belagavi city, besides owning sites in Saundatti, Hukkeri and Hubballi.

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F/o Ronald Dsouza/ Manisha Saldanha
S/o Late Ligoury Dsouza/ Late Alice Lasrado nee Dsouza
Of Kottara, Mangalore.
Passed away on Thursday 09.04.2026.
Funeral rite will be on Sunday 12.04.2026
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Contact: 9741738231

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CM to open scribes' meet today

BIDAR, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the 40th edition of the State Journalists' Convention in Bidar on Saturday.

The event, jointly organised by the Bengaluru and Bidar district units of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists Association, will also feature an exhibition, which is set to be inaugurated by Deputy CM D K Shivakumar. Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre will take part in the programme.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, SACHIN alias SACHIN S KULKARNI, residing at Salarpuria Sattva Anugraha Tower4, 301, 3rd Floor, 9th Cross, Cauvery Nagar, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru- 560079, have changed my name to SACHIN KULKARNI, vide affidavit dated 09.04.2026 before notary H R Karunakara, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MOHOMAD HUSSAIN, S/o Hussain Mohamad, aged about 76 years, R/a No. 203, Metro Politian Spencer Cross Road, Pulikeshi Nagar, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005, hereby declare that the my wife name is wrongly mentioned as HAZRA in my passport (No.N3435848) records. The correct name of my wife is HAZERA BAI MOHOMAD HUSSAIN. Henceforth, be referred to as HAZERA BAI MOHOMAD HUSSAIN in all future reference vide affidavit dated 09th April 2026 sworn before notary K. Venkateshan, Bengaluru.
I, AMBIKA T.R, W/o D.S Rohit Kumar, aged about 43 years, R/at No. 14, 5th Cross, 4th Block, Near Subramanya Swamy temple, kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bangalore- 560020, i here by declare that AMBIKA T.R and DODDAMANE ROHIT KUMAR AMBIKA, both names belong to me only, Vide affidavit Dated 23-03-2026 Before notary K Mohan, Bangalore.
CHANGE OF NAME
I, AMARASIMHA S.K., residing at #216, 2nd E Cross, 1st Phase, Girinagar, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to AMAR SIMHA S K vide affidavit dated 10-04-2026 before notary Jayappa A, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called AMAR SIMHA S K only
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Cabinet rejig needed to resolve Congress issues: Jarkiholi

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said that the internal issues within the Congress party must be resolved and that there is a need for a cabinet reshuffle.

Responding to questions from the media on Friday, he said that the government has completed around 30 months in power and it is time to focus on restructuring the cabinet.

When asked whether he would become KPCC president if Congress wins the Bagalkot by-election, he said that a change in the KPCC leadership is necessary and inevitable. However, he clarified that the party high command will take the final decision.

On the issue of implementing internal reservation, Jarkiholi said the government is committed but must follow the Supreme Court's directive to collect relevant data before implementation. He added that the government is not against any community.

Reacting to the BJP's allegation that Congress distributed money during the Bagalkot by-election, he said that all parties engage in such practices and that giving even Rs 10 or Rs 1,000 is wrong.

He also suggested that to avoid the high cost of by-elections, a new law should be introduced allowing the same party to nominate a replacement if a sitting MLA passes away.

POCSO case against teacher

NAYAKANAHATTI (CHITRADURGA DISTRICT), DHNS: A POCSO case has been registered against a primary school teacher who allegedly sexually abused a high-school student, besides getting her pregnancy aborted in Challakere in Chitradurga district.

A case has also been filed against the doctor who performed the abortion.

The complaint against mathematics teacher H O Rajanna was filed by the Chitradurga district Child Protection Officerr, following which the cops proceeded to book a case against the teacher.

Rajanna reportedly developed a relationship with a high-school student, whom he took to a maize field on August 26, 2025, where he proceeded to sexually assault her.

He continued to abuse her sexually after that incident. On learning that the girl was pregnant, Rajanna took her to a nursing home in Challakere, where Dr Shankaralakshmi performed the abortion in the small hours of March 1.

SIR in Karnataka: 100-day task cut out for BJP cadres

Your work can shape pol direction for next 50 yrs: Internal handbook

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BJP has asked its cadres to devote 100 days and ensure that the party's supporters are not left out of the electoral rolls when the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) begins in Karnataka.

Party workers are being trained on what they should do during SIR at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan camps.

"Your work and commitment during the next 100 days can shape the political direction for the next 50 years," an internal handbook states in a chapter on SIR.

Booth-level agents (BLA) deputed by the party have been asked to accompany government-appointed Booth Level Officers (BLO) on door-to-door visits during the distribution of enrolment forms. This is to "especially ensure" that BJP supporters get the forms and submit them in time.

SIR in states like Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have stirred a controversy.

The last SIR in Karnataka was done in 2002 when the state had 3.55 crore voters. The latest number of voters stands at 5.57 crore.

Currently, BLOs are mapping all voters from the 2002 rolls who are now above 40 years of age. Voters aged below 40, but not in the 2002 rolls, will also be covered through 'progeny mapping'.

This means that such voters aged above 18 will be mapped with their parents or grandparents who existed in the 2002 rolls.

Voters whose names are missing from the existing roll and whose parents are also absent in the 2002 list will have to provide any one of 12 citizenship documents.

By asking party workers to remain involved in all key processes, the BJP is viewing SIR as an opportunity to sharpen its booth-level electioneering. Karnataka has over 58,000 booths.

Based on three-year data, the saffron party categorises booths into three: 'A' (where voters favour the party), 'B' (where votes can swing either way) and 'C' (where the party can't win).

Every booth has a 11-member committee whose composition will be based on the social profile of voters.

These committees have been asked to strategise based on booth-level data from the last two Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Booth committees must ensure 100% voting from BJP supporters during elections while getting 'neutral families' to come out and vote for the saffron party, the handbook states.

Earlier this year, Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar asked his party workers to detect deletion of voters during SIR.

Karnataka has one of the highest numbers of autorickshaws, which depend on gas.

Muniyappa urges Centre to address auto gas shortage

BENGALURU, DHNS: While the supply of commercial gas cylinders has relatively stabilised, the supply of Auto LPG continues to remain a problem, as close to 65% of the gas stations are run by private companies and most of them have shut down.

Given that the private companies are not able to meet the demand, the Union government is obligated to step in and increase the supply, said Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa.

"Owing to the conflict in West Asia, the private companies are finding it difficult to import gas, and hence, many of them have shut down. We have written multiple letters to the Centre urging them to address the situation and increase the supply. When the private players are unable to meet the demand, the government is obligated to improve the situation," he said.

Karnataka has one of the highest numbers of autos, which depend on gas. Out of the five lakh autos in the state, close to three lakh depend on gas and of them, 1.5 lakh are in Bengaluru.

"Their livelihood is affected. Many of them depend completely on income from driving autos," Muniyappa said.

The minister also urged the Union government to ensure early supply of domestic gas cylinders.

"They have asked customers not to book cylinders for more than 25 days after receiving a cylinder. In such cases, the Centre and supply companies should ensure that the public receives a cylinder on the 26th day itself. Otherwise, it will lead to queuing in front of distribution companies," he said.

'Close watch on the black market'

The government is keeping a close watch on those misusing the situation and selling gas cylinders at inflated prices. Action is being taken according to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa said. So far, close to 1,400 raids have been conducted against those selling the cylinders in the black market, and 22 people have been arrested, he added.

"We have filed 29 FIRs, and I have asked the Home Department to keep a close watch to prevent such incidents. We have already seized close to 1,600 cylinders," he said.

Forest encroachment: Assembly ex-speaker loses appeal, told to hand over 60.5 acres

Cong leader gets 30 days to return land from date of receipt of order

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bringing to closure a 22-year row over cases of forest encroachment by senior Congress leader and former Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, the appellate authority of the Forest Department, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Circle, rejected his contentions and held that he has encroached 60 acres 23 guntas of forest land in Kolar.

"The appellant (Kumar) is directed to vacate and hand over peaceful possession of the encroached land within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of this order," the order said.

The case dates back to August 2003, when forest officials booked Kumar for encroaching forest land in survey numbers 1 and 2 of Janikalkunte reserved forest in Hosahudya village of Srinivasapura taluk. The forest was notified in 1937 by the government of the Maharaja of Mysore.

The photo taken using a drone by officials during the joint survey of land in Survey Numbers 1 and 2 of Hosahudya village, located in the Janikalkunte forest area of Srinivasapura taluk.

K R Ramesh Kumar

In June 2011, the then assistant conservator of forests, Chintamani sub division, issued an order directing Kumar to vacate the encroached forest land. In the following years, Kumar moved the forest and revenue departments as well as the judiciary several times to secure his land. As a result, he managed to hold on to the land despite a Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) dismissing his appeal as far back as 2012.

4 surveys show encroachment

In a rare case, four joint surveys were conducted and all confirmed the encroachment. The fourth multi-department survey came in January 2025. As the findings put Kumar's encroachment at 60 acres and 23 guntas, yet another notice was issued. Kumar again filed an appeal before the CCF.

CCF ORDER

"It is also significant that the appellant continued to purchase lands up to 2007 despite being aware of the forest boundary dispute from 2002 onwards and despite initiation of forest offence proceedings in 2003 and 2006.

In a 48-page order, CCF Sivasankar S answered each of Kumar's contention and dismissed his appeal. The Congress leader questioned the validity of 1937 notification, stating that it should have been issued under the Indian Forest Act. The CCF, however, found it untenable and noted that the full internal authority of Mysore State was handed over to the Maharajas in 1881 and hence the notification was issued under Mysore Forest Regulation 1900.

Kumar relied on the Kolar deputy commissioner's 2014 report, which highlighted some discrepancies and pointed to anomaly of revenue records showing forest extent at 208 acres while the notification itself put the extent at 113. The report had recommended rectification of boundary under Section 19(2) of the Karnataka Forest Act.

However, the CCF order noted that the January 2025 report of the Deputy Commissioner notes an excess of only about 8 acres between notified extent (113 acres) and physically measured extent (120 acres 38 guntas). He further noted that the boundaries of the forest have been conclusively established through the joint survey. "The marginal variation in extent does not affect the validity of the notification nor warrant invocation of Section 19(2)..as the boundaries are clear, identifiable and legally certain," he added.

Title untenable

The order found Kumar's claim to the title of the land untenable and dismissed the claim that it was granted to individuals between 1949 and 1953. "Once land is notified as forest, it vests with the Forest Department, and the jurisdiction of the Revenue Department stands excluded," it said, and referred to the orders of the Karnataka High Court and the Supreme Court to underline that once declared as a forest, the land remains a forest.

BJP releases Bengal manifesto, promises UCC...

BJP manifesto, from Page 1

"Any of our leaders in the state can take over the office of chief minister after our victory in West Bengal. The BJP's choice of CM will be someone from the state itself—capable, qualified, and able to ensure good governance," he said, while avoiding speculation that Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition, might be picked for the top job.

"We are not a dynastic party where leadership passes automatically from a Didi to a nephew," he added, taking a dig at Mamata and her heir apparent, Abhishek Banerjee.

"When a person falls ill, you offer medical care and support—that is not a freebie," Shah said, defending the BJP's promise to repackage the TMC government's monthly payout schemes for women and youth, despite criticising the freebie culture in the past.

The TMC questioned whether the BJP was truly committed to supporting unemployed youth, asking why it had not introduced similar financial assistance schemes in other "double-engine" states such as Gujarat, Assam, or Odisha.

Vance heads to Pak for high-stakes talks

Vance, from Page 1

And Trump complained that Iran was "doing a very poor job" by not allowing the free flow of ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

Kuwait, meanwhile, said it faced a drone attack Thursday night that it blamed on Iran. Though Iran denied launching any assault.

On Thursday, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amir Moghadam confirmed that a 10-member Iranian delegation would arrive in Islamabad. "Despite skepticism of Iranian public opinion due to repeated ceasefire violations by the Israeli regime to sabotage the diplomatic initiative, invited by Hon PM Shehbaz Sharif, Iranian delegation arrives tonight in Islamabad for serious talks based on 10 points proposed by Iran," he said on X on Thursday.

Hours later, he deleted the statement amidst the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered a potential boost to ceasefire efforts in the region when he said he had approved direct talks with Lebanon. The Lebanese government has not responded as of Friday morning.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian had said that the Israeli attack on Lebanon blatantly violated the initial ceasefire and would render negotiations meaningless.

Officials have not provided any timeline for the arrival of delegates due to security reasons, adding to the mystery.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday announced "Visa on Arrival" for delegates and journalists travelling to Pakistan for talks.

A thick security blanket covered the capital, Islamabad, which was on 'red alert' ahead of talks.

More than 10,000 police and security personnel have been deployed to ensure multi-layered security for the visiting delegates in Islamabad, officials said.

The upcoming negotiations are being closely watched globally, as their success or failure could have far-reaching implications for West Asia's security, global energy markets, and international diplomacy.

II PUC student dies by suicide

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 17-year-old II PUC student died by suicide at her residence in Manorayanapalya in Hebbal, hours after her results were announced on Thursday. The deceased, Tanushree, was a science student at a college in the city.

Police said the incident came to light around 3.30 pm, shortly after the results were announced. Tanushree was alone at home as her mother, Asha, had gone to work. Friends who came to meet her found her lying unconscious and rushed her to a nearby hospital, where she was declared brought dead.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that Tanushree had failed in 3 subjects and was reportedly distressed. She had called some of her friends to discuss her results and had also posted a message, '3 PM fielding set', on a social media account.

State gets the ball rolling...

Stadium, from Page 1

"The stadium is to be designed as a multi-use stadium capable of hosting club, national and international cricket matches as well as major concerts, events and ceremonies," the documents said.

While the stadium will be spread across 1,08,963 sq m, the podium area will be 12,750 sq m, with the total area coming to 1,21,713 sq m.

The documents also suggested that a 'seating bowl' design has been finalised by taking inspiration from renowned structural engineering firm Walter P Moore's works.

"The underlying considerations for the bowl framing have been drawn from multiple stadiums and arenas designed by Walter P Moore in the past. In particular, the proposed design references elements of — Tigres Stadium, Mexico; LA.Live Entertainment Complex, Los Angeles; AT&T Stadium, Texas; and Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis," the design documents said.

The seating area will be divided into sections — general admission (76,200 seats), VIP members (2,000 seats), VVIP members (1,000 seats), and wheelchair positions and companion seating (800 seats).

The stadium facade is planned to be designed as an iconic architectural feature that reflects Karnataka's cultural identity and cricketing heritage. The stadium will also host a hall of fame, a dedicated space to celebrate the legacy of the stadium, its iconic players, and historic cricketing moments.

"Through curated displays, memorabilia, and interactive digital features, it creates an immersive experience that connects visitors with the sport's heritage. Designed with premium finishes, controlled lighting and secure showcases, the space preserves valuable artifacts while offering an engaging and inspiring journey for fans. It stands as a symbolic heart of the stadium, honoring past achievements and motivating future generations," the design document suggested.

The second phase of the project will include construction of an indoor sports arena, convention centre, aquatic centre and outdoor court facilities.

"Envisioned as a year-round, multi-event destination, the complex will promote community engagement, encourage youth participation, and boost sports-based tourism. It is designed to cater to both elite athletes and grassroots development, fostering talent from rural and urban regions alike," the tender documents said.

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Sl. No	Description	Details	
1	Name of work	Horizontal Extension of CATVAC Cleanroom at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru (Civil, Electrical, Airconditioning and other allied works).	Construction of New Class Rooms, Activity Rooms & Additional Infrastructure Developments at Kendriya Vidyalaya, NAL, Bengaluru. (Civil, PH & Electrical Works).
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/C/01/2026-27 Dt. 08/04/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/C/02/2026-27 Dt. 09/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 491.72 Lakhs	₹ 477.88 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	Eleven Months	Twelve Months
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 9,83,440/- valid for 180 days	₹ 9,55,760/- valid for 180 days

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.
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Short-term tender publication double envelope system (Through e-procurement)

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka State, Deputy Director Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Bidar **(Standard Bid Document)** has provided that under the **MPLAD** scheme for the year 2023-24, eligible registered general, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe contractors are invited for item wise e-tenders for the works.

For more details, terms and conditions of the said works, please contact office of the Deputy Director Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Bidar during office hours and can be contacted at the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

1.	Date of commencement of downloading of tender documents from website	06.04.2026 to 21.04.2026
2.	Last date for submission of filled in tender	Up to 17:00 hrs on 15.04.2026
3.	Date of opening of technical bids	After 17:30 hrs on 18.04.2026
4.	Date of opening of financial bids	After the technical bid is approved

Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin) AH & VS Bidar.

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E - TENDER NOTICE No:RWF/M/OT/ EMMS/2026-27/1RT Dated: 10/04/2026

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works).
Sl. No.: 1. **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/ EMMS/2026-27/1RT Dated:10/04/2026. **Name of the work:** Testing, Inspection and Certification of Lifting Machines, Lifting Tackles, Fork Lifts, Safety Items, Handling equipments and Pressure vessels used in the Factory for 2026-2027. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 13,39,213.65. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 26,800.00. **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 02/05/2026 at 10.30 Hrs. **Completion Period:** 2 years.
DY. CME/AM

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/ SMS/2026-27/2 dtd. 08/04/2026

Sl. No.: 1. **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/ SMS/2026-27/2. **Name of the work:** Outsourcing the operation of Non core Activities at SPC Bay. **Estimated Cost in Rs.:** 67,53,600/-. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 1,35,100/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 29/04/2026 at 10:30 hrs. **Completion Period:** 15 months.
This tender notice and eligibility criteria can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**.
DY. CME/W-II

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast April 11: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.2	20.8	00
Bidar	36.4	21.6	00
Vijayapura	37	24	00
Dharwad	35.4	20	00
Haveri	35.2	21.2	00
Kalaburagi	39	24.7	00
Raichur	39	24.6	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	32.8	23.4	00
Karwar	34.5	24	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34	25.2	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	31.8	20.6	00
Bengaluru	35.4	24.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	35.3	22	00
Davangere	36.2	21	00
Hassan	33.9	14.8	00
Mysuru	36	20.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	35.2	22.2	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	30.8	16.3	00
Kolkata	27	21.8	08
Mumbai	33.5	22.2	00
Chennai	37.8	28.2	00
Pune	34.2	18.6	00
Hyderabad	37.8	25	00
Th'puram	35.3	25.9	02

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INSPECTION WING

Empanelment of External Chartered Accountant Firms for Concurrent Audit related works in Karnataka Grameena Bank

Karnataka Grameena Bank, a leading Regional Rural Bank in India operating in Karnataka with 1750 Branches spread across all Districts of Karnataka State, desires to empanel External Chartered Accountant Firms for conducting concurrent audit in Branches / Offices of Karnataka Grameena Bank.

The particulars like eligibility criteria, remuneration and other details, are published on Bank's website **https://karnatakagb.bank.in** Interested firms may download and apply for the same.

The last date for receipt of completed hard copy of applications at Bank's Head Office, Ballari is 02.05.2026.

To download notification and application form, kindly visit our Bank's website:
https://karnatakagb.bank.in -> Menu -> Others -> Empanelment -> Empanelment of External Chartered Accountant Firms for Concurrent Audit related works in Karnataka Grameena Bank.

Sd/- **General Manager**
Date : 10.04.2026 Karnataka Grameena Bank Head Office: Ballari

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BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.

Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 & Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019 DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527 CAO:8147796526
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com

No:BMCRC/SUP/TENDER/SURGICAL/09/2025-26/Call-2/594A Date:04.04.2026

Ree-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Surgical Disposables to Medical College Hospital,BMCRC,Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inof Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before 04.05.2026up to 5.00 PM.The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.848.64 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/47

CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED., CHIKKABALLAPURA

Admns off: Yaluvahalli, Nandi Cross, Doddamarali Post, NH-07, Chikkaballapura – 562 103.
GST:: 29AAFAC7468L2Z1 Email ID:chimulpurchase@gmail.com

IFT No. CHIMUL/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 163 /2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Chikkaballapura invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl.No.	Description of Material	Qty in Tons
01	Supply of Biomass Briquette to Mega Dairy Chikkaballapura for the period of One Year	5,500 Tons

Access to E-tender Documents : 10.04.2026 to 11.05.2026 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 11.05.2026 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 13.05.2026, 11.00 AM onwards

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.

Sd/-
Managing Director.
Chikkaballapura Milk Union Ltd., Chikkaballapura.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2026-27/114 DATE: 08/04/2026

Short term E-Tender/Re-Tender Notification (Call-1 & Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders/Retender from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 5054-MDR Improvements, 1 work under head of account 4059-Judicial buildings and 2 works under head of account 3054-MDR Maintenance, Totally 4 No. of works, Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 4.80 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 240.00 lakhs.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 1, 3 & 4:

1) Pre-bid meeting date: 21-04-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 22-04-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 24-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 27-04-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 2:

1) Pre-bid meeting date: 23-04-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 24-04-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 28-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 30-04-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-83/KSMCA/2026-27

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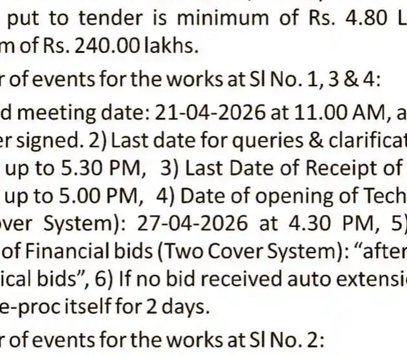

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ–581 359
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ನಂ.: 08419–261273 Email: dcfyellapur@gmail.com
ಎ3/ಟೆಂಡರ್/Outsource/ವಿಪ–01/2026–27./67 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಗೂಲಿ 26 ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ (outsource) ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) (ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ) ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–04–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ರವರನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08419–261273).

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/35/26-27 Dt.09.04.2026

ಬೀದರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ BIDAR UNIVERSITY

ಜ್ಞಾನ ಕಾರಂಜಿ ಹಾಲಹಳ್ಳಿ (ಕೆ), ಬೀದರ 585 414 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾರತ
Office of the Registrar Evaluation Section - E-Mail.registrarevaluationbidar@gmail.com

No. BUBIDAR/Exam/Tender/2026-27/ Date: 09.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement two cover system)

The Bidar University, invites tender from eligible service provider for Supply of **Convocation Certificate, provisional Passing Certificate, Migration Certificate, and rank Certificate,** for the period of Three years as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act. The tenderers who have registered under E-governance Department of Karnataka may participate through e-tendering system. The approximate estimated cost of the procurement is of Rs.1.25 Crore.Tender documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The eligible tenderers shall submit their proposal under e-procurement platform on or before the **dates as scheduled in the e-portal. For any more information contact Registrar (Evaluation), Examination Section, 9449391184.**

Sd/- **Registrar (Evaluation)**
Bidar University, Gnyana Karanji,
Halhalli (K)-585414, Bidar, Karnatkaa

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810

IFT No. 02/2026-27 Dt.01.04.2026
ITEM WISE TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for the **06 no's of works** under this division with KW-4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems, where has **03 no's of works** approved under the head of account 4059-80-051-0-60-422 SCP and **03 no's of works** approved under the head of account 4059-80-051-0-60-423 TSP for the year 2025-26. The minimum Amount Put to Tender is **Rs.131.37 Lakhs** and the maximum Amount Put to Tender is **Rs.805.46 Lakhs.** The minimum EMD amount is **Rs.2.00 Lakhs** and the maximum EMD amount is **Rs.12.08 Lakhs.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 01.04.2026 to 17.04.2026, within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-I, II & III Civil Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible.

More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Public Works Department
DIPR/DDMYS/016/KSMCA/023/2025-26 **Mysuru Division, Mysuru**

NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Bangalore - 24. (CIN No.: U 74899 DL 1963 GOI 003913)
Phone : 080-2341 5816. E-mail : rm.bangalore@indiaseeds.com,
nscbangalore.mktg@gmail.com Website : www.indiaseeds.com

No. : 7(4)/Tender/Mktg/NSC-BNG/2026-27 Date : 10-04-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

National Seeds Corporation Limited, Regional Office, Bangalore invites NIT through Online for appointment of **Authorised Fertilizer Dealer for Distribution of the Fertilizer to Tobacco Growers of Tobacco Board in Karnataka.** For further details visit our **Website : www.indiaseeds.com.** NIT Document can be Downloaded from **Website : https://indiaseeds.enivida.com** from **11-04-2026, 13.00 hrs. Last Date for Submission of Online Tender is 20-04-2026 till 14.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Regional Manager,
National Seeds Corporation, Bangalore.

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Chief Medical Officer, Bhadravathi

Ph: Email: cmobdvt@gmail.com
Phone- 9164823174 & 7349760984

No.: GHB/OS/30/2026-27 Date: 09.04.2026

Sub.:e-Tender invitation for availing services of Group-D and Non Clinical Services on outsource basis for the year 26-27. Short-Term Tender applications are invited in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 from eligible Contractors regarding availing services of Group-D and Non Clinical Services on outsource basis to Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi for the year 2026-27. For Tender Forms, E.M.D., regarding Tender Terms and Conditions and further information can be viewed in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact 734960984 during office working hours. Last date for submission of Tender: 20.04.2026.

Approx. amount of Tender: Rs. 76.00 lakhs (Rupees seventy six lakhs only).

Sd/-Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/73/04/75

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, GADAG.
Phone No.: 08372-238782 Fax No.: 08372-237268
E-Mail: eepwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB-1 3 4 : Diferent Head: 2026-27/102
Dated 08-04-2026

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of **07** work of total amount of **Rs. 1308.15 Lakh** (Min estimate amount: **Rs. 1.15 Lakhs** to Max Estimate **Amount: 900.00 Lakhs)** for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1 , 3 and 4, through **http:// www. kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/**

Work Indent No:- Part-1 33839/Call-3, 32784 Category-2A, 32782 , 34835

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : 15-04-2026(b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders :17-04-2026 Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date:- 18-04-2026 Financial Bid Date:- 21-04-2026

Work Indent No:- Part-2 34882, 34849-SC, 30969/Call-2

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : 27-04-2026-04-2026
(b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : 28-04-2026 Noon 4.00 PM
(c) Opening of Technical Bid Date:- 29-04-2026 Financial Bid Date:- 30-04-2026

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

DIPR/GADAG/16/2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Public Works Department
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

I.F.T No.01/2026-27 Date: 07.04.2026

(For Road/bridges–Improvements/constructions–As per SBD KW 2&4 in Two Tender Document System (Two Cover)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per KPPP Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders **from Date: 07.4.2026 to 22.04.2026, Date: 09.04.2026 to 24.04.2026 up to 04:00 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur.

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:23/KSMCA/2026-27

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

No.: EEE/PNDB/AEE-1/AE-1/2026-27/38-39 Date: 07.04.2026

The KPTCL have formulated a scheme under section 67 of the Electricity Supply Act 2003 and the same is here with published in pursuance of section 67(ii) of said Act for information of the general public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

1. Name of the Project:

Scheme for Establishing 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Sub-station at Machagondanahalli in Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and construction of associated 66kV line and the details of works are mentioned below:

i. Establishing 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Sub-station at Machagondanahalli in Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

ii. Construction of 66kV LILO line using Drake conductor on 110kV NBT KPTCL design towers from existing 66kV DB Pura- CB Pura line-2 to the proposed 66/11kV Machagondanahalli Sub-station for a route length of 0.457kms in Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The above line passes through following survey Nos.

Village: **Machagondanahalli,** Hobli: **Tubagere,** Taluk: **Doddaballapura,** District: **Bengaluru Rural.**

SL. No.	Tower No.	Survey Nos.
1	Exisiting T.No.49 to T.No.1	6
2	T.No.1 to T.No.2	6
3	T.No.2 to T.No.3	6
4	T.No.3 to T.No.4	154
5	T.No.4 to T.No.5	148
6	T.No.5 to Bay	148

2. Salient Features:

- This is an ideal load center where the industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and domestic loads are existing.
- The problems of low voltages, frequent interruptions in power supply can be overcome and quality power supply can be provided and the future load growth can be catered in and around the area.
- The load on the existing 66/11kV Tubagere and 66/11kV D Cross sub-stations will be relieved and 11kV line losses will be reduced. The system losses will be reduced with annual energy savings of 1.595 MU.

3. Estimate Cost of the Project: Rs. 2557.44 Lakhs

The Corporation shall have and exercise all powers, which the telegraph authorities possess under Para (iii) of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (13 of 1885) for carrying of the above scheme, objection/discrepancies to the scheme, if any should be sent to the Executive Engineer (Ele), Projects Division North, KPTCL, AR Circle, Bengaluru-560009 **within 15 Days** from the date of publication of this notification for consideration by the corporation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.,),
Projects Division North, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058
LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (LCMD)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5047, 5045, 5086, (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following work:

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: AC works for the Proposed modification of Directors office Area LEOS campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. NIET No: LEOS/C&MG/Director_Off/AC/ETN-01A/2026-27 Dtd: 01.04.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 16.20 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 32,400/-; Period of Completion in months :** 04 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 10.04.2026; **Closing Date :** 28.04.2026

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting **e-Tender** (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

-Sd-
GROUP DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)
URSC, BANGALORE.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Special Land Acquisition Officer-1,(BMICP) No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravinda Bhavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No.: KIADB/LAQ/65/2026-27 Date: 09.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE (UNDER SECTION 28(6) OF KIAD ACT 1966)

For establishment of Industrial Area, Government Notification No.: CI 17 SPQ 2022 Dated 18.03.2026 has been issued under KIAD Act 1966 Section 28(4) for lands with the below mentioned Survey Numbers in Adinarayanahosahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and has been published in Karnataka State Gazette dated 24.03.2026. As per the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act 1966 Section 28(5) the properties detailed below are vested with the Government of Karnataka free of all encumbrances. Notice has been given to the concerned Khatedars/Anubhavadars as per Section 28(6). As the correct address of some land owners was not available and some land owners refused to receive the Notice, this Notice is published in the Newspaper. It is informed that within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice the custody of the said properties has to be handed over to undersigned officer or an officer appointed by him. It is hereby informed that failing which further action will be initiated as per Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act 1966 Section 28(7).

Details of Survey Numbers of Lands Acquired.

Sl. No.	Name of Khatedar	Name of Anubhavdar	Survey No.	Acquisition Area		
				Ainu A-G	Kharabu A-G	Remaining A-G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Village: Adinarayanahosahalli Hobli: Kasaba Taluk: Doddaballapura District: Bengaluru Rural						
1	D. Prema D/o Late Doddananjappa	D. Prema D/o Late Doddananjappa	70/1	0-12	-	0-12
2	N. Bhaskar S/o C.M. Nanajappa	N. Bhaskar S/o C.M. Nanajappa	70/2B	1-20	1-20	-
3	K.S. Ashwath S/o Late Siddalingappa	K.S. Ashwath S/o Late Siddalingappa	70/4	0-03.08	-	0-03.08
4	Manjunatha S/o Doddananjappa, N. Shivanna S/o Nanjundappa	Manjunatha S/o Doddananjappa, N. Shivanna S/o Nanjundappa	70/5	1-20	-	1-20
5	Manjunatha S/o Doddananjappa, N. Shivanna S/o Nanjundappa	Manjunatha S/o Doddananjappa, N. Shivanna S/o Nanjundappa	70/6	1-32.08	-	1-32.08
6	Nagamani G. W/o G.A. Arun Kumar	Nagamani G. W/o G.A. Arun Kumar	70/7	0-12	-	0-12
7	Rathnamma D/o Late Doddananjappa	Rathnamma D/o Late Doddananjappa	70/8	0-12	-	0-12
8	Ugam Raj S/o Son Raj Ji, Bhawar Lala S/o Son Raj Ji, Jawahar Lal S/o Son Raj Ji	Ugam Raj S/o Son Raj Ji, Bhawar Lala S/o Son Raj Ji, Jawahar Lal S/o Son Raj Ji	78/8	0-10	-	0-10
9	Ugam Raj S/o Son Raj Ji, Bhawar Lala S/o Son Raj Ji, Jawahar Lal S/o Son Raj Ji	Ugam Raj S/o Son Raj Ji, Bhawar Lala S/o Son Raj Ji, Jawahar Lal S/o Son Raj Ji	78/11	0-14	-	0-14
			Total	**6-16**	**1-20**	**4-36**

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer-1, BMICP, KIADB, Bengaluru.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Office General Hospital Kusthagi, Distract : Koppal.
Phone : 08536 - 267250, E-mail : ghkustagi1@gmail.com

No. : Tendar/Daite/G.H.K./419/2026-27 Date : 10-04-2026

E-TENDAR NOTIFICATION

General Hospital, Kusthagi 2026-27 has invited E-Tender on E-procurement platform for **Supply of Breakfast Good Quality Ready Food, Banana, Boiled Egg and Coffee / Tea.**

The Tender Period will be from the Date of Order till : 31-03-2027 only The Estimated Total Tender Value Per Annum is Rs. 71,31,600/- Tender Details are as follows Tenders are invited Two Cover System on E-Procurement for Supply of Breakfast Good Quality Ready Food, Banana, Boiled Egg and Coffee / Tea.

1) Address for Uploading Tender Form App : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 2) Last Date & Time for Submission of E-portel Tender Envelopes Date : 27-04-2026 at 5.00 p.m., 3) Date & Time Scrutiny of Tender Technical Envelopes of E-Portel Date : 28-04-2026 at 5.30 p.m., 4) Date & Time of Opening of Financial Envelopes by E-Portel Date : 30-04-2026 at 11.30 a.m., 5) EMD : 1,42,632/-.

For Further Information Contact Officer and Address, Telephone Number : Office of the Chief Medical Officer, General Hospital, Kusthagi. Mob : 90083 13778 E-mail : ghkustagi1@gmail.com

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer,
General Hospital, Kusthagi.

DIPR/Koppal/18/Manipal/2026-27

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ (ಐ.ಟಿ)

ನಂ: ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಂಸಿ: 15:02:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–04–2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ / ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು: ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ (ಐ.ಟಿ) ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2251955 ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅ.ನಂ 1 ರಿಂದ 4ರ ವರೆಗಿನ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13–04–2026** ಹಾಗೂ ಅ.ನಂ 5ರ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–04–2026** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

ಅ. ನಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ	ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು ವಾರ್ಡ ನ.ಂ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	**DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57155**	38ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಅನುದಾನ	06.00	29–04–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	30–04–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2	**DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53541**	75ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಅನುದಾನ	07.00		
3	**DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57143**	63ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಅನುದಾನ	04.50		
4	**DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57164**	ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟಸಿಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ	99.00		
5	**DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57288**	51ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಅನುದಾನ	20.00	07–05–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	08–05–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
6	Inviting rates 1. for providing Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract rates for Mono Laser /MFM Printers & 2. supply Installation of toners Unit Rates for Normal Mono Laser Printers, Multi Function Laser printers & Color Inkjet printers which are installed at various offices of HDMC of Hubli & Dharwad Division. 3. for providing Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract rates for Photo copier machines			Submit Your rate quotation to this office in person or through E-Mail to **it.hdmc@gmail.com** or via Indian Postal Service on or before **Date: 17-04-2026 up to @4:00pm** Note: Further Details of this rate notification is displayed on our official website **http://hdmc.mrc.gov.in**	

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಐ.ಟಿ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/47/ಮಾಣಿಪಾಲ್/2026–27

DECCAN HERALD
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Amid war shocks, an essential rate pause

Caution forced by global headwinds has informed the decision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to keep the repo rate unchanged at its April meeting. The domestic and international scenarios have changed considerably since the committee's previous meeting, with the war in West Asia looming over the country's economy. Higher oil prices, a shortage of cooking gas, and the rupee clocking sharply lower levels have all posed challenges. In the RBI's policy stance, there is a realistic acknowledgement of the prevalent risk factors, which is reflected in its decision to keep the rate unchanged at 5.25%. It has clearly stated its reasons: "The economy is confronted with a supply shock. It is prudent to wait and watch the changing circumstances and the evolving growth-inflation outlook."

Though the economy has shown relative macroeconomic strength, it has taken hits in recent weeks. It will be under strain with the return of migrant workers to their homes and the ongoing elections in some states. Supply chains remain disrupted by the war, and the outcome of the ongoing two-week ceasefire is unclear. The markets have soared, and international crude prices have fallen, but the uncertainty is palpable. Even if the ceasefire lasts, it will take months for the supply chains to regain normalcy. A likely shortfall in fertiliser production threatens to affect agricultural output, reducing rural incomes and raising food prices. The MPC would have taken into consideration this instability and uncertainty while making its decision on the interest rate.

Global uncertainties and inflation risks necessitate the RBI's wait-and-watch move on the repo rate

Amid these imponderables, the RBI has forecast a headline inflation at 4.6% in 2026-27. This is within its tolerance range, but a deviation from the recent trend of softening inflation. In spite of the moderation after the ceasefire, global fuel prices remain high. The RBI expects the economy to grow at 6.9% this year, down from the expected 7.6% in 2025-26. This could be taken only as an initial estimate, based on available information and the potential immediate impact of external factors on the economy. It could worsen as the situation unfolds. For example, the projection is based on the assumption of crude price at $85 per barrel. The actual price is likely to be higher. The RBI has said that "further escalation and wider spread of the conflict, heightened volatility in global financial markets and weather-related events, however, weigh on the domestic growth outlook". Under the circumstances, the move to wait and watch is sensible and aligned with the larger stability agenda.

A test of credibility for KSOU

The latest controversy at the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) is less an aberration and more a continuation of a troubled institutional history. Established in 1996 to democratise higher education through distance learning, KSOU has lurched from one controversy to another, raising persistent questions about governance and credibility. Its most damaging phase came in 2015, when the University Grants Commission withdrew recognition, citing blatant violations of norms. Although recognition was restored in 2018 after corrective measures, the reputational damage endures. Subsequent missteps have only deepened scepticism. The decision to confer honorary doctorates on "questionable candidates" triggered dissent within the Board of Management. A one-man inquiry led by Justice B A Patil is now probing a range of alleged irregularities.

The immediate flashpoint, however, was the three-day convention on RSS ideologue Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, co-hosted by the university, with Vice-Chancellor Sharanappa V Halase heading the reception committee. In a state where the dispensation has deep differences with the RSS, the event embarrassed the government, with Congress legislators hauling Higher Education Minister M C Sudhakar over the coals. Worse, while the university had invited Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Sudhakar, who is the pro-chancellor, was kept in the dark. In a show-cause notice, the government has accused Halase of misusing the campus for private, ideological purposes. Beyond these faultlines, a larger question emerges: should publicly funded universities align themselves with political or religious organisations at all? Such precedents risk opening the floodgates to competing assertions, turning campuses into battlegrounds rather than centres of learning.

Controversies point to politicisation and governance gaps at the university, calling for urgent reform

Further precipitating matters, the government has now frozen the university's bank accounts, citing *prima facie* evidence of financial irregularities flagged by the inquiry. This has stalled budget finalisation and threatens to disrupt academic functioning, leaving the students and faculty to bear the consequences of an avoidable standoff. The impasse is exacerbated by the fact that the incumbent VC continues on a six-month extension after the expiry of his term. A more prudent course would be to appoint an interim VC in accordance with the statute and restore administrative stability. Given the gravity of the allegations, the appointment of a senior bureaucrat as Registrar (Administration) can help cleanse the system. The Minister's proposal for a uniform university law is a step forward, but piecemeal reform will not suffice. What is needed is a comprehensive, expert-led overhaul to ensure that institutions like KSOU do not drift further from their founding purpose.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

A case for continuing the Public Interest Litigation

In a country with unequal access to justice, the PIL is a lifeline. Fix its flaws, don't dismantle the system

PRIYAMVADHA SHIVAJI

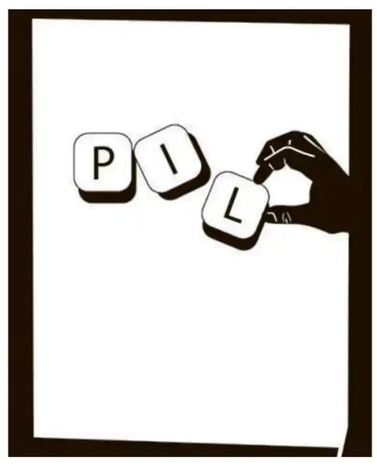
This week, a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has begun to hear a reference petition filed against the SC's 2018 decision upholding the right of menstruating women to enter the Sabarimala temple. As part of the submissions, an interesting question has been raised by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the Central government: is it time for the SC to re-examine its much-vaunted Public Interest Litigation (PIL) mechanism, a unique homegrown innovation which has for long been lauded as a hallmark of our judiciary's commitment to ensuring meaningful access to justice for all?

PILs are an extension of the court's ordinary writ jurisdiction, allowing persons and communities to bring the court's attention to matters of public importance even in instances where they may not be the directly affected parties. As Mehta pointed out, one of the driving principles behind this expansive constitutional device was to ensure that the poor and the marginalised would not be at a disadvantage in being able to approach courts. Justices P N Bhagwati and V R Krishna Iyer, in landmark cases such as *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar* (1979) and *Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India* (1983), led the way in ensuring that narrow *locus standi* requirements did not obstruct the articulation of community-based public interests.

The PIL mechanism, however, has evolved to more than merely allowing cases to be brought before the court. Judicial activism through PILs has allowed for courts to take suffering seriously, even by initiating fact-finding commissions and monitoring the implementation of court orders (*PUCL v. Union of India* [2001]). PILs have also been invoked in multiple cases, widening the articulation of fundamental rights (*Justice (Retd.) K S Puttaswamy & Ors.* [2017]).

Mehta argues that the PIL mechanism has outlived its usefulness, as the deficit initially identified in the 1980s of "vast sections of the population [being] structurally unable to access courts because of poverty, illiteracy, disability, detention, social exclusion and the sheer absence of institutional legal support" has been sufficiently addressed. He cites improvements in legal aid mechanisms, including the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and District LSAs, as well as the introduction of institutional support structures such as e-filing to argue that more citizens are now better placed to access justice than ever before.

The judiciary has seen significant improvements over the years in ensuring transparency and widening access to justice. Initiatives such as the National Judicial Data Grid and the eCourts project have gone a long way towards helping litigants and others access information. However, there remain



significant gaps. Studies show that most people still find the legal system complex and difficult to navigate. Gender, caste, and other identity markers play a role in influencing the perception of access to justice, with women, for instance, noting that their complaints in police stations may often be treated differently and their cases are more likely to be dismissed at the first hearing.

Although NALSA and the state and district LSAs have expanded their reach, the 2025 India Justice Report notes that the number of paralegal volunteers deployed across India to aid in last-mile legal awareness and support decreased by 38% from 2019 to 2025. Furthermore, initiatives such as Lok Adalats have seen uneven implementation, with very low clearance rates and some states/Union Territories not organising any at all in the last few years.

The adoption of e-filing has been, in theory, a significant push for democratising access to justice. However, with nearly twice as many rural households lacking Internet access as urban households in 2025, and only 3.8% of rural households having access to stable, high-speed Internet, which is crucial for the high volume of documents to be uploaded on the e-filing portals, e-filing has not seen much uptake. e-Seva Kendras in many courts are non-functional or not manned by adequately trained and sufficient staff.

In the court, there is continued asymmetry during the course of a case. Persons with greater access to resources can afford to hire more senior lawyers and bear the costs of prolonged litigation. Easily digestible information in local languages, regular updates about case progress, and access to documents, affidavits, and other government records are not universally available, despite ongoing digitising efforts. Free legal aid is severely underfunded, with the national per capita average being just Rs 6.

Refining the framework

There is, therefore, a strong case for PILs to continue as a mechanism to ensure that even one underprivileged litigant is not left in the cracks. However, PILs have also evolved over the years, with many petitions dismissed by the courts as being frivolous and motivated by personal gain rather than true public interest.

Mehta and Chief Justice of India Surya Kant rightly recognised that courts are being called upon more frequently to examine the cause of action in these 'publicity interest' litigations. However, solutions in this regard already exist. In 2010, the SC called upon high courts to frame rules for discouraging PILs filed with oblique motives. To strengthen the enforcement of these rules, the PIL cells/committees envisaged by them must be constituted, with the Registry being empowered to scrutinise the stated reasons for the PIL. The judges retain discretion in rejection/approval of the petition, and may choose to impose exemplary cost sanctions on those who waste the court's time through frivolous litigation.

However, to do away with PILs entirely may be a case of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. PILs have been a unique mechanism by which the court exercises its authority to ensure that meaningful justice is obtained, not just at the time of approaching the court but throughout the journey towards articulating their rights. By continuing to strengthen the mechanism and privileging genuine expressions of public interest in the courts, access to justice can be widened for all.

(The writer is Senior Resident Fellow, Justice Access and Lowering Delays in India [JALDI] Initiative at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Life beyond the routine transactions

Civilisations endure not by power alone, but by shared norms

HARI ARAYAMMAKUL

Much of everyday life runs on quiet transactions. We smile, expecting a smile in return. We offer help, hoping it will be remembered. Even our digital lives operate on reciprocity; "likes" invite "likes", and silence feels like rejection. Life, at one level, is a series of transactions. And yet, something in us resists this reduction. Across the animal world, parents care for their young; it is instinctive. Care for the elderly, however, is uniquely human. It serves no immediate biological purpose. Civilisation begins where instinct is restrained by empathy.

Recently, I found myself hesitating before returning a call. The person on the other end had helped me in the past, and I sensed this conversation would come with an expectation. It was a small moment, almost trivial, but it stayed with me. When did simple human interactions begin to feel like pending obligations?

Growing up in Kerala in the 1970s and 1980s, life was not free of give-and-take. But it was rarely this calculated. We shared space, food, and time without keeping accounts. Asking too much was considered poor manners; giving quietly was a virtue. Reciprocity existed, but it remained unspoken. Wealth was not meant to be displayed. In fact, there were almost theatrical attempts to conceal it. I remember an elderly, wealthy gentleman who used to visit our home, dressed in white cotton clothes, threads fraying at the edges.

What seems to be changing today is not the presence of transactions, but their tone. They are becoming harder, more explicit, and often more demanding. Entitlement replaces courtesy. Requests turn into expectations. What was once offered is now claimed.

I have spent years observing international relations, and the parallels are difficult to ignore. Nations, much like individuals, are driven by pride, anger, insecurity, rivalry, and memory, despite the presence of seasoned statesmen and diplomats. Diplomacy, once measured and discreet, is increasingly performative. Private conversations spill into the public domain. Strength is projected through unpredictability, even rudeness.

We see this when the powerful engage the rest: assistance tied to conditions, partnerships reduced to leverage, moral language replaced by transactional logic. This is often described as realism. But realism without restraint is little more than instinct in formal attire. The danger is that when every interaction becomes a deal, trust begins to thin out. Relationships, whether personal or between nations, cannot endure on calculation alone.

Civilisations endure not by power alone, but by shared norms; restraint in victory, dignity in conduct, and empathy in strength. To feast while one's neighbour starves may signal wealth, but it reveals a deep moral failure.

That missed call stayed with me because it revealed something uncomfortable, not about the other person, but about myself. How easily I had begun to measure, to anticipate, and to calculate.

Transactions may be inevitable. But they need not define us. When values accompany deals, and dignity tempers ambition, both individuals and nations move closer to something larger than success.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will women's bill, delimitation strengthen India's democracy?

Apropos 'PM appeals for passage of quota bill' (Apr 10), it is heartening that PM Narendra Modi is keen on implementing 33% reservation for women in state assemblies and Parliament before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. To avoid further delays, he personally saw to it the Cabinet passed the draft legislation, which will be introduced in a special session of Parliament to be convened from April 16. It is significant that the reservation extends to SC and ST women as well. While it is a much-needed step forward for India, one hopes that this, along with the proposed delimitation exercise that will likely expand the Lok Sabha from 543 seats to 816— in which 273 seats are earmarked for women—strengthens the quality and inclusiveness of India's democracy.

M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Ensure judicial wellbeing

I refer to 'The hidden costs of judicial stress' (Apr 10). That there are nearly 5.5 crore cases pending in various courts is a matter of grave concern. In the general interest of the system, the chief justices and judicial academies must identify and acknowledge structural challenges and push for reforms. As the author rightly points out, a comprehensive framework for judicial wellbeing will also have a positive effect on reducing case backlogs and restoring public confidence in the judiciary.

S Shashidhar, Bengaluru

Voter revision is needed

Your editorial on the Bengal voter purge is worrisome — not for the purge itself, but for the way it has been presented. Electoral revisions are mandated by the Constitution, and such exercises have been conducted several times earlier without questions being raised. It is also well known that West Bengal has faced issues of illegal entry from across the unfenced border. The present exercise is necessary to weed out those who have enrolled in the electoral rolls using forged documents. Moreover, ECI undertook this revision under the directions of the Supreme Court.

H S Gopal, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

DMK is spreading lies that AIADMK is BJP's slave.

K Annamalai, BJP leader

There are a terrible lot of lies going about the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true.

Winston Churchill

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Why wound a healing forest?

A stone quarry proposed for the Kaiga nuclear project threatens to derail the Kali's slow recovery

GIRIDHAR KULKARNI

Streams flow silently through the forests of the Kali Valley, where wildlife – once pushed to the margins – is slowly reclaiming its space, and the roar of the tiger is now heard once again. This recovery is not a one-day miracle, but the result of decades of sustained effort by the State Forest Department, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the National Tiger Conservation Authority, local communities, and conservationists. The land is healing, patiently and quietly.

Yet, just as this fragile balance begins to return, a new disturbance is being proposed. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has sought diversion of forest land to restart a stone quarry and build an approach road to source construction material for the Kaiga project. At first glance, this may seem routine. But it is not. The proposed quarry lies within the eco-sensitive zone of the Kali Tiger Reserve, where quarrying is prohibited.

What makes the situation more unsettling is the position taken by the regional office of the MoEF&CC in Bengaluru. Its inspection report acknowledges the ecological sensitivity of the site and recognises the forest as a functioning ecosystem. It also makes a stark observation: quarrying would damage the entire ecology of the Western Ghats. Yet, the proposal has been recommended, citing the "strategic importance" of the project.

This contradiction raises a fundamental question about how such decisions are being weighed.

The forest proposed for diversion is part of a connected landscape that enables the free movement of large mammals like tigers. The 2022 All-India Tiger Monitoring Exercise has recorded unique tiger individuals here, underscoring its role as a corridor. Fragment this continuity, and the impact will be lasting.

These forests perform essential ecological functions. In a high-rainfall region, they stabilise slopes, prevent erosion, and regulate water flow. Disturbance through blasting and excavation weakens this system, increasing the risks of landslides and soil loss. Their hydrological role is equally critical. The forested catchment feeds water bodies such as the Kadra Reservoir nearby, where healthy forests help maintain water quality and reduce siltation. Quarrying in such areas risks sediment runoff and long-term degradation of these water systems.

It is also not an isolated activity – it brings roads, machinery, noise, and human presence, fragmenting habitats and disrupting wildlife movement.

The history of the site adds to the concern. The quarry lease dates back to 1994 and expired in 1999, yet the land was never restored.

The Ministry's headquarters has sought clarifications on several points: why the quarry and approach road have been proposed separately, whether an approach road has already been constructed on forest land without prior approval, and why the land was not resumed after the lease expired. The Ministry has also asked whether the site falls within ecologically sensitive areas of the Western Ghats, including the eco-sensitive zone of the Kali Tiger Reserve.

There is also a clear policy inconsistency. When the Kaiga Units 5 and 6 project was approved by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in 2019, it came with conditions, including a prohibition on sourcing construction material from adjoining forest land. The present proposal goes against that safeguard.

Risks from gains

It is difficult to ignore the irony that while the people of the Kali valley have long borne the cost of dams, reservoirs, and power projects, they continue to be denied basic facilities such as roads, electricity, bridges, and mobile connectivity, often on the grounds of protecting wildlife and complying with safeguards. If such laws can be enforced so strictly in denying basic rights, one can only hope they will be applied with equal sincerity to ecologically unsustainable activities like quarrying.

The importance of the Kaiga project – a key part of India's energy infrastructure – is not in question. But for that reason, the stability of its surrounding environment becomes more critical. This was recognised during the "Samaya Rekha 2025" disaster preparedness exercise at Kaiga, where experts examined risks such as landslides, extreme rainfall, and emergency scenarios.

NPCIL has, to its credit, supported wildlife conservation through CSR funding and wildlife mitigation plans in and around the project landscape, including the Kali Tiger Reserve and the Karwar and Yellapur forest divisions – efforts that are widely appreciated. In the same spirit, sourcing construction material from outside sensitive wildlife areas would better align with these efforts.

The real question is not development versus conservation, but whether we are willing to wound a healing forest for short-term gain and silence the tiger's roar just as it begins to return.

(The writer is a wildlife conservationist)

Draft tribal plan flags contradictions, legal gaps, relocation concerns as Great Nicobar project faces critique

Fiction of consent in Great Nicobar

Key events

- In the **2010s**, the Union Government began exploring Great Nicobar's strategic and developmental potential, including tourism, power generation and defence
- In **May 2019**, a NITI Aayog report identified five islands of the Andaman & Nicobar archipelago with high potential for tourism, organic farming, seafood exports, deep-sea mining and other key economic sectors
- In **2021**, the Government of India approved the Great Nicobar Island Development Project
- On **November 11, 2022**, the Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change granted environment clearance for the project
- On **March 12, 2025**, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram assured the Rajya Sabha that "Not even a single tribal is being displaced and there is no impact on the environment."
- On **February 16, 2026**, the NGT cleared the GNIDP, considering its 'strategic importance' and found no 'good reason to interfere' as 'adequate safeguards' have been provided
- On **March 13, 2026**, the draft 'Comprehensive Tribal Welfare Plan' was circulated for consultation, detailing tribal relocation
- On **March 30**, the Centre told the Calcutta HC Bench it needed a fortnight to demonstrate tribal consent for the project

SHAILENDRA YASHWANT

The problem with the Great Nicobar Island Development Project (GNIDP) is no longer missing information but wilful disregard. Evidence that unsettles the project is set aside, processes that inconvenience it are compressed, and planning itself now appears to follow decisions already taken.

The draft 'Comprehensive Tribal Welfare Plan', circulated for consultation on March 13, is a flawed proposal riddled with contradictions, vague assurances, inadequate clarity on critical processes, and fundamental legal and practical flaws. It reveals not just administrative confusion but systematic hollowing out of community rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

At its core lies a stark, and revealing, contradiction. For years, officials have insisted that the project will not displace tribes. "There will be no environmental impact and no tribal will be displaced due to the Great Nicobar project," Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram said in the Rajya Sabha on March 12, 2025. Yet the draft plan explicitly mentions 'relocation of Nicobarese tribal communities from tsunami-affected and project-impacted areas.' Why relocate if there is no displacement?

The draft plan attempts to soften this by invoking the 2004 tsunami. It notes that families in settlements such as Rajiv Nagar and New Chingen 'have expressed their intention to continue living there' due to access to schools, jobs and amenities. Yet it simultaneously proposes new housing and infrastructure in ancestral locations, including '30 new houses... and 1 ha land per household', described as 'uninhabitable and unsuitable for cultivation.'

What is presented as voluntary return sits uneasily alongside project-driven relocation. Elsewhere, the draft plan offers only 'an option' for future relocation 'outside the GNI Project area,' while framing movement in terms of 'project-impacted areas.'

Basic questions remain unanswered: Who exactly is to be relocated? From where, to where, and under what conditions? Population figures are "subject to change upon further enumeration," land availability "need[s] to be discussed," and even the plan's consultation status remains unsettled.

More troubling is the legal vacuum in which it operates. The tribal council alleges that the FRA procedures were never initiated. In the draft plan, consent is asserted without evidence: no gram sabha records, no resolutions, no independent verification. Claims of 'expressed interest in resettlement' substitute for due process, even as those communities contest the process.

The legal inconsistencies extend further. The draft plan gestures toward compliance with The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013, but sidesteps The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of. Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 — which is particularly significant given overlaps with Shompen territories. Proposals for infrastructure, including roads and other facilities, within forest and protected areas proceed without clarity on rights recognition or ecological safeguards. Even forest access is reduced to 'where possible', turning a statutory right into administrative discretion.

Beyond law, the draft plan falters on its own terms. It proposes a return to fragile, tsunami-affected coastlines, despite rising sea levels and the submergence of Indira Point. Livelihoods are imagined through plantations and fishing, yet the draft plan itself acknowledges that many families prefer proximity to Campbell Bay for 'employment opportunities.' Infrastructure proposals — from desalination plants to roads — appear aspirational, lacking ecological assessments or feasibility studies.

The financial architecture is equally uncertain, as the projected outlay of Rs 42.52 crore rests on incomplete assumptions. Taken together, these contradictions point to a deeper problem. Planning here is not about evidence or community engagement, but about assembling a narrative that aligns with decisions already taken.

There is also a deeper philosophical question. Development, as articulated, seems to demand subjects who can be relocated, compensated, and 'rehabilitated' within a framework designed elsewhere. But the Nicobarese ties to land are not interchangeable units, and their territories are not merely economic assets. They are part of a living cultural landscape. To reduce this relationship to housing units and infrastructure packages is to fundamentally misunderstand it.

Shailendra Yashwant is a senior adviser to Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA). X: @shaibaba.

From gaps to wilful neglect

Conceived by the NITI Aayog, the Great Nicobar Island Development Project (GNIDP) is being executed by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Ltd

- Currently, around 75% of India's trans-shipped cargo is handled at foreign ports. The proposed International Container Transshipment Port is expected to boost forex savings, FDI, port activity, logistics infrastructure, employment and revenue
- Greater Nicobar is strategically vital because it is located near important sea lanes and GNIDP will help boost India's defence preparedness and presence in the Indo-Pacific

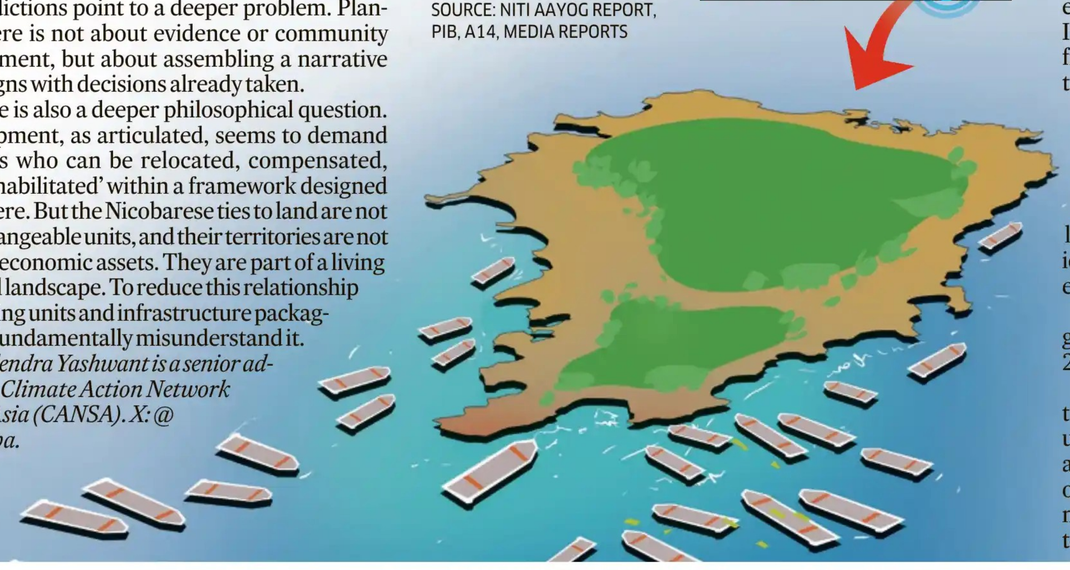
Main components of GNIDP

1. An International Container Transhipment Port at Galathea Bay
2. A greenfield dual-use airport with a 3,300-metre runway
3. Two new planned coastal townships
4. A 450-MVA hybrid gas-solar power plant

Environmental risks

- Approximately **130 sq km** of pristine rainforest including over a million trees, is set to be cleared for the GNIDP, raising alarm among environmentalists
- Extensive infrastructure development over the next two decades could cause irreversible damage to sensitive ecosystems and threaten endangered species

SOURCE: NITI AAYOG REPORT, PIB, A14, MEDIA REPORTS



Mega infra push in biodiverse island

KALYAN RAY
DH NEWS SERVICE

Almost coinciding with the draft tribal welfare plan, the Andaman and Nicobar administration has released a draft master plan, *Great Nicobar Island Development Area – 2047*, outlining how the pristine island will be developed into a logistics, military and tourism hub over the next 25 years.

Over 166 sq km of land — roughly the size of the BBMP core area — will be required to develop infrastructure ranging from an international transshipment container port and airport to multiple power plants, four-lane roads, and luxury resorts and hotels, to be executed in four phases.

The plan says this has been envisaged as "economic opportunities are limited" on the island, despite its "great potential for well-rounded sustainable development based on economic drivers like ICT port, tourism and entertainment". It also identifies finance, knowledge and wellness hubs as potential drivers.

Covered with dense tropical evergreen forests, the Great Nicobar Island has a unique biodiversity, with a wide variety of flora and fauna, undulating terrain, perennial rivers and deep inlets and creeks. It hosts diverse forest systems, ranging from seasonal rainforests in the low hills to tropical mountain, riverine, orchid-rich and moist deciduous forests.

Such natural abundance is bound to attract tourists. Pristine sandy beaches, scenic hills, forest-covered mountains and coconut plantations along the coastline make it a unique seaside destination, ideal for relaxation in an unexplored environment.

Annual tourist arrivals are projected to grow from 98,000 in 2029 to 7.35 lakh by 2047, and exceed 10 lakh by 2055.

Great Nicobar's proximity to international tourist destinations such as the upcoming Senang City, the Phuket Island and Langkawi Island presents a great opportunity for tourism-oriented development, positioning the island on the global tourism map.

Alongside tourism, two other strategic infrastructure projects are central to the plan: an ICT port and a military airbase (with a civilian terminal), which are expected to significantly reduce India's response time to the Strait of Malacca, one of the most critical choke points in the Indian Ocean.

The proposed ICT port at Great Nicobar could potentially handle 40–60% of India's transshipment traffic, along with some third-country cargo, subject to competitive tariffs, reliable connectivity to Indian gateway ports and the absence of major geopolitical disruptions. Once operational, India aims to capture a significant share of global maritime trade.

However, to transform Great Nicobar Island into a global destination, it is imperative to improve its connectivity with the Indian mainland and international cities, which remains limited at present. There is also a need to develop better roads, ensure reliable power supply and build social infrastructure such as schools, colleges and hospitals to support a growing population.

The master plan promises to achieve all this while maintaining adequate safeguards to protect Galathea Bay and Campbell Bay National Parks, implementing Island Coastal Regulation Zone norms and executing conservation strategies for species such as the Nicobar megapode, long-tailed macaque, sea turtles and saltwater crocodile. Environmentalists, however, remain unconvinced.

The Public Works Department has sought suggestions and comments on the draft master plan, and has also issued a notice in the local press.

In a representation, Andaman and Nicobar islands parliament member Bishnu Pada Ray said he was not opposed to the island's development, but objected to the application of complex planning regulations to old revenue villages that have evolved organically over time.

"These villages are established habitations, with livelihoods rooted in agriculture, fisheries, trade and local services, and should not be treated as newly planned urban townships," he said.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

The bird that flew 8,000 km

Russian scientists tagged a spoon-billed sandpiper in last July. Nine months later, it migrated to India. Dhanapal Kondasamy traces its history

On July 6, 2025, ornithologists N. Karlionova and D Nizovtsev, from the Russian Academy of Sciences (Birds Russia Expedition) at Meinypilgyno, south-east Chukotka, tagged a wild chick of the Spoon-billed sandpiper (SBS). They hoped that the lime-green tag bearing the marking "2K" would be sighted along its migratory routes, providing useful information about this critically endangered species.

After nearly nine months, it was sighted by birdwatchers from the Kolkata Birding Society on 30 March 2026 at Patibunia beach, south of Kolkata. This was a notable sighting of the rare species along the West Bengal coast in recent years. The tagged bird made an approximately 8,000 km journey from its breeding grounds. With a global population estimated at roughly 150–450 breeding pairs, this sighting created excitement among the Indian birding community. Birders from across the country travelled to see this rare bird. I also flew from Bengaluru with my friends and saw it on April 3, 2026.

The Spoon-billed sandpiper is a small, charismatic wader, closely related to stints, and is distinguished by its unique spatulate (spoon-shaped) bill. It is endemic to the far north-east of Russia, where it breeds exclusively in coastal tundra—cold, treeless landscapes often underlain by permafrost—along a discontinuous stretch of roughly 4,500 km. Its principal breeding grounds lie in Chukotka and parts of northern Kamchatka.

Chicks typically hatch between June and July, and most birds begin leaving their breeding grounds by August. The earliest migrants are recorded in Japan and South Korea from early August, with peak passage occurring in September.

With a body roughly the length of a mobile phone and weighing little more than a light bulb, the Spoon-billed sandpiper undertakes an extraordinary migration each year. It travels across 12–14 countries, from its breeding grounds in Russia to wintering sites as far as India and Southeast Asia, covering around 8,000 km along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. This long-distance migration allows the species to escape the harsh Arctic tundra and reach warmer, food-rich tropical coastal habitats.

A spoon-billed sandpiper with a lime-green tag was seen on March 2 at Patibunia beach, Kolkata. PIC COURTESY: ALBIN ABRAHAM JACOB

The history

The species has a fascinating scientific history. It was first described in 1758 by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus. Despite its distinctive bill, it was only later—by the early 19th century—that it was recognised as sufficiently unique to be placed in its own genus, Eurynorhynchus, among the waders. Its breeding grounds remained unknown to science until 1879, when the Vega Expedition, led by Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld, explored the Arctic coast of Chukotka in Siberia.

At the time, the species appeared to be relatively common during spring migration. Historical accounts from the expedition note that it was occasionally collected and even served at the expedition's table. However, the birds were not encountered later in the season, indicating that they had already departed their breeding grounds to migrate southward in search of abundant food.

A century later, in 1978, the Spoon-billed sandpiper was listed in the official Red Data Book of the former Soviet Union as a species with restricted distribution and limited population. A rapid population decline was not recognised until around 2000, when Arctic expeditions by the Russian Academy of Sciences began regular surveys. The population was estimated at no more than 1,000 breeding pairs, far below the earlier figure of 2,000–2,800 pairs. Later estimates suggested fewer than 450 pairs. This led to its status changing from "Vulnerable" to "Endangered" in 2004, and to "Critically Endangered" in 2008.

The population has declined over the last 30 years to an estimated 150–450 breeding pairs. The destruction of intertidal mudflats, particularly along migration routes through China, Japan, and South Korea, is a major cause. Habitat loss, hunting, and pollution directly contribute to the decline, with climate change acting indirectly.

To prevent extinction, the first Action Plan was developed in 2008 to address threats such as hunting and trapping. Key habitats covering about 830,000 ha across Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, South Korea, and Thailand have since been protected.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Team was formed in 2004 and became a Task Force under the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership in 2010. It promotes sustainable coastal management and advocates limiting coastal reclamation, especially along China's coast.

However, continued annual declines of about 5% led to a new Action Plan, the "International Single Species Action Plan" (2025–2035), adopted by EAAFP in November 2025. It is coordinated by BirdLife International with support from the Convention on Migratory Species.

The plan aims to ensure the long-term survival of the species and identifies 9 objectives, 18 results, and 75 priority actions. Hunting and habitat loss remain the most serious threats.

As a rare and charismatic bird from remote parts of Russia, the species has attracted collectors. In the mid-2000s, private collectors reportedly offered large sums, and about 17% of breeding sites have been affected. According to global waterbird assessments, around 40% of waterbird populations are declining worldwide, rising to about 59% in Asia. Coastal reclamation, aquaculture, tourism, pollution, and climate change continue to drive habitat loss.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site represents one of the highest levels of international recognition for biodiversity conservation. A chain of such sites along the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea coasts is being expanded and would be important for protecting the species' habitat.

(The writer is a retired forest officer from Tamil Nadu, settled in Bengaluru. He is an ardent birdwatcher)

DID YOU KNOW?

Mysterious heart neurons regulate BP, prevent fainting

When you get up from a chair, your blood pressure instantly increases to compensate for the movement and prevent you from fainting. For decades, researchers thought neurons called baroreceptors in arteries controlled this process by signalling the sudden drop in blood pressure to the brain, which then issues orders to constrict blood vessels. Some experts suspected that other neurons might help maintain blood pressure during such shifts in posture, but they didn't know which ones.

In a study recently published in *Nature*, scientists took a close look at mysterious neurons in the heart that could be involved. "They have been known to exist, but we had no idea what they were sensing," says study senior author Stephen Liberles, a molecular neuroscientist at Harvard University.

Working with mice, his team focused on a protein called PIEZO2 that converts pressure on cell membranes into nerve signals. The researchers found PIEZO2-expressing neurons wrapping around all four chambers of the mouse heart in intricate, weblike structures. "There are such neurons in the human heart as well," Liberles says.

To understand the neurons' function, Liberles and his colleagues rotated mice from horizontal to upright while monitoring their vitals in real time. A healthy mouse instantly adjusts its heart rate to compensate for such a change in posture. When the researchers injected mice with a toxin that selectively killed PIEZO2 neurons in the heart, however, the mice's blood pressure plummeted, and they failed to recover. When the researchers induced haemorrhaging in the mice, the PIEZO2 neurons acted long before arterial sensors could have sounded the alarm—suggesting that they have a direct line on blood volume.

The team suspects that the brain most likely gets a general sense of blood pressure from the arteries but relies on these newly discovered heart sensors for high-fidelity updates on the volume of blood moving through the organ.

But the hunt for mysterious circulatory neurons is far from over. Liberles and his colleagues note in their study that there are at least six distinct neuron types in the cardiovascular system, and we still don't know the functions of three of them. "We want to know how they work," Liberles says. "There's a lot to do."

NYT

Gujarat Police launch AI-based tool to aid narcotics investigation

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat Police on Friday launched an artificial intelligence (AI)-based application, "NARIT AI" (Narcotics Analysis & RAG-based Investigation Tool), to make investigations into narcotics cases airtight and strengthen them during trial, thereby improving conviction rates.

Officials said that NARIT AI — which it said was a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country — was a retrieval-augmented generation (RAG)-based system that helps investigators handle complex narcotics cases under the legal framework regarding the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The tool can reportedly provide legal advice to investigating officers by incorporating legal provisions, relevant case laws, and investigation procedures in each case.

The application has been developed by the Western Railway Police, Vadodara Division, in collaboration with a Mumbai-based AI startup.

Officials said that it had been prepared under the guidance of Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) K L N Rao and Surat City Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gehlot. Gujarat, over the past decade, has witnessed an increase in narcotics cases, including smuggling from Pakistan and Iran-based international drug cartels.

In the past two years alone, drugs worth Rs 3,727 crore were seized in as many as 1,646 cases. Data presented in the Gujarat Assembly stated that a total of 41,000 kg of drugs was seized. For the police, the biggest challenge in investigating NDPS cases was reportedly procedural compliance. Police officials found that despite strong evidence, the accused would walk free due to procedural lapses in the investigation process.

BSF jawan killed in Manipur

GUWAHATI, DHNS: A BSF jawan was killed in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday after a bullet fired by militants hit him.

The jawan, identified as Mithun Mandal, was from West Bengal. He was on patrolling duty at Mongkot Chepu in Ukhrul, which has remained troubled since February. Ukhrul is a Naga-dominated district but there are Kuki settlements too.

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, in a social media post, said the jawan was "fatally injured by a bullet from an unknown direction".

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020

No. BDA/TPM/RMP-2041/105/2025-26 Date: 09.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Form-VI
(Under Rule 32-A of The Karnataka Planning Authority Rules, 1965)
Declaration of intention of making Revised Master Plan-2041

It is hereby, notified for the Information of the General Public that, in accordance with the Government Notifications No. UDD 515 MNJ 2025(E) dated 10.10.2025 and UDD 515 MNJ 2025(Part-4)(E) dated 03.11.2025 the local planning area of the Greater Bangalore Authority has been notified. Accordingly Bangalore Local Planning Area Stands revised. Hence, under Section 10 of Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961, the Bengaluru Development Authority intends to prepare the Revised Master Plan (RMP) - 2041 for the remaining 242 villages (List as annexed) that comes under the Local Planning Area of Bangalore Development Authority and a notification is published in the Karnataka official Gazette vide dated 06.04.2026. Hence public can submit their suggestions in writing to the Office of Town Planner Member, Bangalore Development Authority, Chowdaiah Road, Kumar Park West, Bangalore-560020 in person / through registered post or through E-Mail to **bda_rmp2041@ka.gov.in within 60 days** from the date (06.04.2026) of publication of the notification in the official Gazette

Details of Villages in the Local Planning Area under the Jurisdiction of Bangalore Development Authority (BDA)

Sl. No.	TALUK	HOBLI	VILLAGE NAME	Remarks
1	Anekal	Attibele	K.G. Veerasandra	Full Village
2			Gollahalli	Full Village
3			Hebbagodi	Full Village
4		Jigani	Bhutanahalli	Full Village
5			Bannerughatta	Full Village
6			Bilvaradahalli	Full Village
7			Bairappanahalli	Full Village
8			Gollahalli N.	Full Village
9			Halesampigerhalli	Full Village
10			Hulimangala	Full Village
11			Hullahalli	Full Village
12			Hullukasavanahalli	Full Village
13			K.G. Begihalli	Full Village
14			Kalkere	Full Village
15			Kannayakana Agrahara	Full Village
16			Lakshmipura	Full Village
17			Mantapa	Full Village
18			Maragondanahalli	Full Village
19			Nallasandra	Full Village
20			Nanjapura	Full Village
21			Ramasandra	Full Village
22			S.I. Bingipura	Full Village
23			Tirupalya	Full Village
24			Wabasandra	Full Village
25			Vaderahalli	Full Village
26			Bannerughatta Shankarikavalu	Full Village
27			Bhujangadasana Amaniakere	Full Village
28			Sakalavara	Full Village
29		Sarjapura	Alasahalli Tipasandra	Full Village
30			Avalahalli	Full Village
31			Chikkanagamangala	Full Village
32			Chikkanekundi	Full Village
33			Chikkavaderepura	Full Village
34			Chinkala Madinal	Full Village
35			Chokkasandra	Full Village
36			Dommasandra	Full Village
37			Gattihalli	Full Village
38			Gottamaranahalli	Full Village
39			Gulimangala	Full Village
40			Harohalli	Full Village
41			Heggondanahalli	Full Village
42			Hoshahalli	Full Village
43			Huskuru	Full Village
44			K.G. Chudasandra	Full Village
45			K.G. Shriramapura	Full Village
46			Kaggalipura	Full Village
47			Kammasandra	Full Village
48			Katriguppa	Full Village
49			Nakkundi Dommasandra	Full Village
50			Ramanarayakananahalli	Full Village
51			Rayasandra	Full Village
52			Singena Agrahara	Full Village
53			Tigala Chowdadenahalli	Full Village
54	Bengaluru (North)	Dasanapura	K.G. Torenagasandra	Full Village
55			J.I. Baiyandalli	Full Village
56			J.I. Heggadevanapura	Full Village
57			Adikeamaranahalli	Full Village
58			Aluru	Full Village
59			Bailakonenahalli (Part)	Part village
60			Chikkabidrakallu	Full Village
61			Dasanapura	Full Village
62			Dombarahalli	Full Village
63			Gangondanahalli (Part)	Part village
64			J.I. Narayanappanapalya	Full Village
65			K.G. Hanumanthasagara	Full Village
66			K.G. Harokyatananahalli	Full Village
67			K.G. Shrikantapura (Anchepalya) (Part)	Part village
68			K.G. Tammenahalli	Full Village
69			Kachohalli (Part)	Part village
70			Kadarenahalli	Full Village
71	Bengaluru (North)	Dasanapura	Kuduregere	Full Village
72			Lakkenahallli	Full Village
73			Lakshmipura (Part)	Part village
74			Machohalli	Full Village
75			Makali	Full Village
76			Siddanahoshahalli	Full Village
77			Vaddarapalya	Full Village
78			J.I. Gavipalya	Full Village
79			Muniyanpalya	Full Village
80			Muttanahalli	Full Village
81			K.G. Narasipura	Full Village
82			K.G. Shrikantapura (Part)	Part village
83			Madavara (Part)	Part village
84	Bengaluru (North)	Hesaraghatta	Adiganahalli	Full Village
85			Bilijaji	Full Village
86			Hurulichikkanahalli	Full Village
87			J.I. Ittagalapura	Full Village
88			J.I. Ivarakondapura	Full Village
89			J.I. Kalatammanahalli	Full Village
90			J.I. Kalenahallli	Full Village
91			J.I. Krishnarajapura	Full Village
92			J.I. Lingarajapura	Full Village
93			J.I. Mavallipura	Full Village
94			J.I. Rajanakuute	Full Village
95			K.G. Byalakere	Full Village
96			K.G. Guni Agrahara	Full Village
97			K.G. Lingarajasagara	Full Village
98			Kammarasanahalli	Full Village
99			Kasaghattapura	Full Village
100			Kempapura	Full Village
101			Kondashettihalli	Full Village
102			Kumbarahalli	Full Village
103			Linganahalli	Full Village
104			Madhagirhalli	Full Village
105			Madappanahalli	Full Village
106			Muttukadhalli	Full Village
107			Mailappanahalli	Full Village
108			Sasiveghatta	Full Village
109			Shivakote	Full Village
110			Soladevanahalli	Full Village
111			Tarabanahalli	Full Village
112			Kasaba Hesaraghatta (Part)	Part village
113			Kodagi Tirumalapura (Part)	Part village
114		Yashwanthapura	Chikkabanavara	Full Village
115			Ganigarahalli	Full Village
116			Guddadahalli (Guledahalli)	Full Village
117			J.I. Manganahalli (Part)	Part village
118			K.G. Sheegehalli	Full Village
119			Kannalli	Full Village
120			Kodighalli (Part)	Part village
121			Somashettihalli	Full Village
122			J.I. Kodati Tirumalapura (Part)	Part village
123		Yelahanka	Bandikodighalli	Full Village
124			Bandikodighalli Amaniakere	Full Village
125			Bettahalasuru	Full Village
126			J.I. Chagalahatti	Full Village
127			J.I. Dasanayakananahalli	Full Village
128			J.I. Hunusamaranahalli	Full Village
129			J.I. Nellukunte	Full Village
130			K.G. Baiyappanahalli	Full Village
131			K.G. Huvinayakananahalli	Full Village
132			Marenanahalli	Full Village
133			Mailanahalli	Full Village
134			Satanuru	Full Village
135			Sonnappanahalli	Full Village
136			Suggatta	Full Village
137			Timmasandra	Full Village
138			Bagaluru	Full Village
139			Avalahalli	Full Village
140			Gantiganahalli	Full Village
141			J.I. Modi Agrahara	Full Village
142			K.G. Krishnasagara	Full Village
143			K.G. Lakshmisagara	Full Village
144			K.G. Shyamarajapura	Full Village
145			K.G. Vaderahalli	Full Village
146			Kempanahalli	Full Village
147			Muddanahalli	Full Village
148			Ramagondanahalli	Full Village
149			Shinganayakananahalli	Full Village
150			Veerasagara	Full Village
151			K.G. Honnenahalli	Full Village
152			Nagadasarahalli	Full Village
153			Shinganayakananahalli Amaniakere	Full Village
154	Bengaluru (South)	Beguru	Bettadasanapura	Full Village
155			Doddanagamangala (Part)	Part village
156			Konappana Agrahara (Part)	Part village
157			Mailasandra	Full Village
158	Bengaluru (South)	Beguru	Doddatoguru (Part)	Part village
159			Vittasandra	Full Village
160			K.G. Hommadevanahalli	Full Village
161		Kengeri	Bhimanakuppe Ramasagara	Full Village
162			Challaghatta	Full Village
163			Devagere	Full Village
164			Doddabele (Part)	Part village
165			Gudimavu	Full Village
166			Badamanavartekavalu	Full Village
167			J.I. Bheemanakulppe	Full Village
168			K.G. Kampipura	Full Village
169			K.G. Kaniminiake	Full Village
170			K.G. Kenchanapura	Full Village
171			K.G. Kommaghatta Krishnasagara	Full Village
172			K.G. Maligondanahalli	Full Village
173			K.G. Venkatapura	Full Village
174			Kommaghatta (Part)	Part village
175			Kumbalagodu	Full Village
176			Maragondahalli	Full Village
177			Maragondanahalli Krishnasara	Full Village
178			Ramasandra (Part)	Part village
179			Ramohalli	Full Village
180			Sulikere	Full Village
181			Tagachaguppe	Full Village
182			Agara	Full Village
183	Bengaluru (South)	Tavarekere	Channenahalli	Full Village
184			Chikkaluru Venkatapura	Full Village
185			Chikkaluru Rampura	Full Village
186			K.G. Koluru Gururayanapura	Full Village
187			K.G. Koluru Nanjundapura	Full Village
188			K.G. Yalachaguppe	Full Village
189			Ketohalli	Full Village
190			Ketohalli Narasipura	Full Village
191			Ketohalli Rampura	Full Village
192			Sheshagiriapura	Full Village
193			Yalachaguppe Ramapura	Full Village
194			J.I. Chikkaluru	Full Village
195			Koluru	Full Village
196	Bengaluru (East)	Bidarahalli	Aduru	Full Village
197			Halehalli	Full Village
198			Avalahalli	Full Village
199			Cheemasandra	Full Village
200			Doddagubbi	Full Village
201			Doddenahallli	Full Village
202			Goravigere	Full Village
203			Heerandahalli	Full Village
204			Huvinae	Full Village
205			J.I. Anagalapura	Full Village
206			J.I. Bande Bommasandra	Full Village
207			J.I. Bandapura	Full Village
208			J.I. Bidare Agrahara	Full Village
209			J.I. Chikkabanahalli	Full Village
210			J.I. Chikkagubbi	Full Village
211			J.I. Dommasandra	Full Village
212			J.I. Kada Agrahara	Full Village
213			J.I. Kadusonnapanahalli	Full Village
214			J.I. Kurudusonnenahalli	Full Village
215			J.I. Maragondanahalli	Full Village
216			J.I. Mittaganahalli	Full Village
217			J.I. Nadagauda Gollahalli	Full Village
218			J.I. Veeranahalli	Full Village
219			Khajisonnenahalli	Full Village
220			Kannamangala	Full Village
221			Kannuru	Full Village
222			Kittaganuru	Full Village
223			Konadasanapura	Full Village
224			Nimbekaipura	Full Village
225			Vaderahalli	Full Village
226			Yarappanahallli	Full Village
227			Baiyappanahalli	Full Village
228			Doddabanahalli	Full Village
229			Katamnalluru	Full Village
230			Ramapura	Full Village
231			Bidarahalli	Full Village
232			Sheegehalli (Part)	Part village
233			Kumbena Agrahara (Part)	Part village
234	Bengaluru (East)	Varthur	Chikkanayakananahalli	Full Village
235			Hadosiddapura	Full Village
236			Kachamaranahalli	Full Village
237			Sulakunte	Full Village
238			Chikkakannalli	Full Village
239			Mulluru	Full Village
240			Kodati	Full Village
241			Valepura (Part)	Part village
242			Halanayakananahalli (Part)	Part village

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Town Planner Member, BDA, Bengaluru

BJP rushing through bills with eye on elections, says Kharge

Party did not receive any formal proposal from central govt: Cong chief

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said the Central government's proposal to increase seats in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies would have "serious implications" for India's electoral system, and accused the ruling BJP of rushing through Bills — including one for the early implementation of 33% women's quota — next week to gain political advantage in the Assembly polls.

In his initial remarks at a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting here to strategise on the reconvening of Parliament's Budget Session, where the contentious Bills would be taken up, he said the Central government had suddenly become active on the issue of women's reservation "after a long silence".

He said the Congress had not received any formal proposal from the government, and came to know of "certain details" from an article by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge (centre) with party leaders during the CWC meeting in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Reacting to the centre's decision to increase the existing seats in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies by 50%, Kharge said the move would have "serious consequences" and needed "deep and careful deliberation".

He said the government wanted to pass these important constitutional amendment Bills so that it could claim credit and gain political advantage in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Kharge questioned the timing of the Parliament session at a time when most MPs were busy in their constituencies due to Assembly elections.

CPM for wider consultations

The CPM on Friday criticised the Modi government's proposal to link the 33% women's quota with the increase in Lok Sabha and Assembly seats, and demanded wider consultations, reports DHNS.

It insisted that reservation for women in legislatures could still be implemented for the 2029 polls by delinking it from the census and delimitation exercise. The Polit Bureau reiterated its commitment to the reservation of one-third seats for women.

BJP blitzkrieg for women's bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP is mounting an intensive nationwide campaign around the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, entrusting Union Ministers with leadership responsibilities in various areas. In states ruled by the party, chief ministers have been asked to take part in programmes as part of the campaign.

Sources in the party said its cadres have been asked to actively engage in building momentum across the country in support of the Women's Reservation legislation.

As part of the campaign, BJP will hold press conferences in 100 major cities across the country between April 11 and 13. Townhall events will be organised in 15 major cities nationwide.

The party's Mahila Morcha has been asked to take to the streets starting April 11. On April 15 and 16, it will organise a 'Nari Shakti Padayatra' (Women Empowerment March) in every Lok Sabha constituency.

Earlier this week, the Cabinet approved a draft bill that proposes an amendment to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023, by delinking it to the delimitation process, and linking it to the 2011 Census.

A Special Session of Parliament has been convened next week for the passage of the bill.

States should give equal DA hikes to staff, pensioners: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday said states could not differentiate between serving employees and pensioners while enhancing allowances meant to counter inflation, as "inflationary pressures do not discriminate" between them.

Upholding the right to equality for retirees, a bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Prasanna B Varale said, "In our view, when those benefits serve a common purpose and are linked to inflation, and inflationary pressures do not discriminate between a serving employee and a pensioner, fixing different rates of enhancement of dearness allowance and dearness relief have no rational nexus to the object sought to be achieved and are clearly discriminatory as well as arbitrary."

The court said no doubt a financial crunch might be a guiding factor to defer disbursement of certain benefits or may justify separate dates for implementation of beneficial schemes.

Political storm as Vijay film leaked online

Film fraternity rallies behind actor-politician amid conspiracy charges

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

A high-definition (HD) print of actor Vijay's cinematic swansong, Jana Nayagan, has leaked online even as the film remains stuck with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

While Vijay did not respond to the development, his close aide and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) general secretary Aadhav Arjuna described it as a "joint conspiracy" involving Union Minister of State L Murugan and Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin.

The Tamil and Telugu film industries rallied behind Vijay, with Chiranjeevi, Khushbu Sundar, and Sivakarthikeyan condemning the "leak".

Scenes from the film, originally slated for release in January but delayed due to censorshup issues, were shared across several social media platforms, including X, sparking a war of words between Vijay's fans and supporters of the ruling DMK.

TVK chief Vijay campaigns in Karaikudi on Friday. PTI

Jana Nayagan row

Jana Nayagan print leaked online amid censor board delay	Shared on social media, sparking fan vs DMK supporter clashes
	Actor's aide alleges political conspiracy
	Makers initiate legal action

Bengaluru-based KVN Productions, which bankrolled the high-budget project, confirmed that unidentified individuals had illegally accessed, downloaded, copied, and circulated certain scenes, besides forwarding them to multiple third parties.

"My client has initiated legal action against the person who unlawfully downloaded and forwarded scenes from the film," said the production house, asking people not to reshare the leaked content.

Arjuna blamed Murugan, the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, for the film being held up at the CBFC. "Now, he has joined hands with Udhayanidhi Stalin to leak portions from it," he alleged.

The BJP hit back, calling it "unjustifiable" to blame the Union government for the leak.

Actor Chiranjeevi said the leak of Jana Nayagan had deeply concerned him. "Cinema is built on trust, effort, and the collective dreams of many. Such incidents affect all of us in the industry and remind us how crucial it is to protect our creative work," he said.

Actor Sivakarthikeyan demanded strict action against those responsible, stressing that every film is made with the passion, blood and sweat of hundreds of people.

Actor and BJP leader Khushbu Sundar said piracy was not entertainment but organised theft, and those who indulged in it were no less than criminals and should be treated as such.

Justice Varma resigns amid probe

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma has resigned amid a pending inquiry related to impeachment proceedings over the alleged recovery of a cash haul in March 2025 at his Delhi residence.

In his April 9 letter to President Drupadi Murmu, Justice Varma said, "While I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive, it is with deep anguish that I hereby tender my resignation from the office of judge of the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, with immediate effect."

A three-member judicial inquiry panel constituted by the Supreme Court earlier found substance in allegations of piles of burnt and unburnt cash at the residence of Justice Varma, then a Delhi High Court judge, after examining more than 55 witnesses.

Cash recovery

Cash discovered during fire at Varma's Delhi residence in 2025 ₹

SC inquiry panel indicted Varma for misconduct, recommended removal	Repatriated to Allahabad HC without judicial work

FIR may follow once resignation is accepted

The panel indicted Justice Varma for misconduct, leading to a recommendation for his removal on May 8, 2025, by then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

He was repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court without any judicial work.

As part of the impeachment proceedings, on August 12, 2025, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted a three-member committee chaired by Supreme Court Judge Justice Aravind Kumar under the Judges Inquiry Act to investigate allegations against Justice Varma.

Justice Varma approached the Supreme Court twice by filing writ petitions questioning the validity of the proceedings against him, but they were dismissed.

With his resignation, the impeachment proceedings are likely to become infructuous. According to legal experts, once Justice Varma's resignation is accepted, he would lose the immunity accorded to judges, allowing an FIR to be lodged against him in connection with the incident.

Letter to panel: History will record unfair treatment

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Justice Yashwant Varma has withdrawn from the proceedings before the Judges Inquiry Committee, set up by the Lok Sabha Speaker to examine the misbehaviour charges against him.

Justice Yashwant Varma

In a letter to the inquiry committee on April 9, he wrote, "History will one day record the unfairness with which a sitting high court Judge was treated."

Varma said he has been subjected to a "vilification campaign for over a year based on unfounded allegations".

Top court raps UP cops over child's rape-murder

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Expressing shock over the rape-murder of a four-year-old girl in Ghaziabad, the Supreme Court on Friday summoned the police commissioner and the investigating officer, along with the case records, on April 13.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi observed that the most shocking aspect of the offence was the local police's indifferent, inhumane and insensitive approach.

Senior advocate N Hariharan, appearing for the victim's father, a daily wager, alleged that the FIR did not reflect the truth.

Hariharan claimed that a video shot by villagers showed the four-year-old child alive, with a man carrying her to the hospital, but the police have refused to acknowledge it.

Viral Kumbh Mela woman minor; case against husband

KHARGONE (MP), PTI: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes on Friday confirmed that a young woman from Madhya Pradesh who became famous due to her viral videos during the 2025 Maha Kumbh has been found to be a minor after an inquiry.

Citing the findings of an inquiry panel set up by the commission, local BJP leaders alleged that her interfaith marriage in Kerala last month was a case of "love Jihad", and sought legal action.

While the panel had submitted its report in March, ST commission chairman Antar Singh Arya confirmed its findings to the PTI on Friday.

A case for alleged kidnapping and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has already been registered against her husband, a Muslim man, at Maheshwar on the basis of the inquiry findings, police said.

The girl gained national fame after her videos while selling garlands and rudraksha at the Maha Kumbh went viral on social media and also earned her a role in a film.

The National Commission for ST set up an inquiry panel after receiving a complaint on March 17.

SC dismisses plea against caste census

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday came down heavily upon a petitioner for the language used in his plea seeking a direction to the Central government to stop the caste census.

While refusing to entertain the matter, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi expressed displeasure over the language used by the petitioner in the plea.

"You have used indecent language in your petition. Who has drafted your petition?" the bench asked the petitioner, who was appearing in person.

The court finally dismissed the plea.

Oppn slams Assam govt over post-poll crackdown

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The BJP-led government in Assam came under sharp criticism from the Opposition on Friday after police raided the house of Lurinjyoti Gogoi, president of the Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) — a partner in the Congress-led Opposition alliance — detained publicity team members of another candidate, and the office of an Assamese daily was stoned, hours after polling ended.

AJP leader Chittaranjan Basumatary said a police team raided Gogoi's house in Dibrugarh without citing any reason or following legal procedures.

"One of our party workers was attacked on Thursday by BJP workers. Instead of taking action against them, police raided our president's house. This is being done under the instruction of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to threaten the Opposition," he alleged.

Kunki Choudhury, another AJP candidate, said that three members of her social media team were detained on charges of violating the model code of conduct.

In Lakhimpur district, the office of Asomiya Pratidin, a widely circulated Assamese daily, was allegedly stoned by miscreants. The incident took place hours after CM Sarma issued a warning to the owner of the daily and two satellite news channels on Thursday. Sarma issued the warning soon after polling concluded, alleging that the three groups were blackmailing people and involved in illegal activities.

2 of 27L deleted names in Bengal restored with SC nod

KOLKATA, PTI: Out of the 27 lakh names deleted from West Bengal's electoral rolls following adjudication, only two have been restored so far, both following the Supreme Court's intervention, even as the final voter list was frozen as per rules, said officials on Friday.

This was despite the proposed 19 tribunals, meant to hear appeals against deletions, not becoming operational yet.

Poll panel officials said that more than 2 lakh applications seeking hearings before the tribunals had been filed online till Thursday. However, the CEO's office did not say anything officially about this.

The two individuals who got their names back on the electoral rolls were Mahatab Shaikh, the Congress candidate from Farakka, and former MLA Mottakin Alam, who then filed papers as the Congress' Manikchak candidate.

With no clarity on the functioning of the tribunals, expected to be set up at central government premises near Kolkata, anxious voters continued to queue up at offices of Block Development Officers (BDOs) and District Magistrates (DMs) across the state, carrying documents and seeking guidance.

People wait to submit petitions before the Special Tribunal after their names were deleted from the SIR final voter list in Nadia. PTI FILE

"We have submitted documents multiple times, but there is no clarity on whether applying online will be enough," a voter said outside a district office.

Another applicant added, "People are worried as polling dates are approaching and hearings have not begun."

According to a poll body official, preparatory work was underway at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation, where one of the tribunals is proposed to be set up, but operations had not yet started.

Apex court to hear plea against roll freeze before polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to grant an urgent hearing on a fresh plea challenging the Election Commission's decision to freeze electoral rolls ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls in West Bengal.

"We will consider the petition on April 13," a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi told a counsel who mentioned the matter.

The lawyer urged that the plea against the EC's move to freeze electoral rolls before the polls be heard urgently.

The SC said it would consider the petition on April 13, the date already fixed in the West Bengal SIR matter.

UP final voter list published; over 2 crore names deleted

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday published the final voter list of Uttar Pradesh, containing names of over 13.39 crore voters, after the 166-day Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state.

The number was 15.44 crore in the voters' list published in October last year.

In all, 2.06 crore names were deleted in the final list. The final list contained 54.54% male and 45.46% female voters.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa said here that compared to the draft voters' list released in January this year, there was an increase of over 84 lakh voters.

He said that those whose names were not on the final list could still get themselves included by filling out Form 6.

According to the final list, the number of male voters in the state stood at over 7.30 crore, while the number of female voters stood at over 6.09 crore. There were also over 4,000 voters belonging to the third gender.

Prayagraj has witnessed the maximum increase in the number of voters: over 3.29 lakh. The number of voters in Lucknow witnessed an addition of over 2.85 lakh, Bareilly 2.5 lakh, and Ghaziabad 2.43 lakh.

The SIR invited sharp criticism from the Opposition parties, which claimed that it was aimed at deleting the names of voters who were considered their supporters.

The BJP refuted the allegations, saying that the exercise was intended to delete the names of bogus voters.

Harivansh back in RS a day after retirement

NEW DELHI, DHNS: JD(U)'s Harivansh Narayan Singh, the outgoing Rajya Sabha deputy chairman, was on Friday appointed as a nominated member in the Upper House, a day after his retirement as an MP.

His appointment also came on a day his party supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took oath as a Rajya Sabha MP. With this, all 12 posts of nominated members have been filled in the Rajya Sabha.

Harivansh, who was named a nominated MP for the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Ranjan Gogoi in March, could not get a renomination, as there were only two slots available for JD(U) from Bihar, and the party chose to retain Union Minister Ram Nath Thakur and send Nitish to the Upper House.

Telangana HC grants one-week anticipatory bail to Khera

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Telangana High Court on Friday granted Congress leader Pawan Khera anticipatory bail for a week in connection with an FIR filed by Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Pawan Khera

Pronouncing the order on Thursday, Justice K Sujana directed the petitioner to file an application before the court within the week, granting relief subject to conditions.

Justice Sujana reserved the order to Friday. The anticipatory bail petition was filed in Hyderabad on the ground that Khera stays in the city, where his wife resides. Khera is a resident of Delhi.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing on behalf of Khera, contended that while multiple charges were registered against his client, the case amounted to one of alleged defamation.

He argued that the FIR was an attempt to silence and intimidate the political opposition.

Khera had alleged that Riniki held passports of three countries and owned properties abroad.

Nitish successor talks stalled amid NDA discord

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Deliberations to decide Nitish Kumar's successor as chief minister of Bihar faced a delay after the core committee meeting of the state unit, scheduled for Friday, was cancelled at the last moment due to disagreements with alliance partners, even as Nitish took oath as a Rajya Sabha member.

A meeting of the party's core committee was to be held with several state leaders, including the two deputy chief ministers, Samrat Chowdhary and Vijay Sinha, in attendance. Members of the NDA, including senior JD(U) leader Vijay Choudhary, were also in Delhi to take part in the deliberations. Senior BJP leaders such as state president Nitin Nabin, former president JP Nadda, and general secretary Vinod Tawde were present as well. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to join the meeting after his Bengal visit.

However, sources in the NDA said some leaders did not agree to the BJP's proposal of naming Samrat Chowdhary as Nitish's successor. Keen to ensure a smooth transition of power, the BJP decided to postpone the meeting, with several leaders heading to Bihar instead.

Sources in the BJP said a central observer will be announced soon, and a meeting of the party's core committee will be held. The BJP Legislature Party in Bihar is also set to meet in Patna in the coming days. The party is wary of offending Nitish's voter base and wants to avoid sending the message that he was cast aside after the polls were won.

Rajya Sabha chairman CP Radhakrishnan greets Nitish Kumar as the latter takes oath as a member of the House on Friday. PTI

According to sources, Samrat's name had not found much acceptance within the RSS during deliberations with the saffron outfit last month. Other names being discussed include Speaker Prem Kumar and senior party leader Sanjeev Chaurasiya. Both leaders belong to the EBC community, but Prem Kumar's image as an educated leader may work in his favour.

BJP's agreement with its allies on the change of guard is that the chief minister will be from BJP, while Nishant Kumar, Nitish Kumar's son, will be the deputy chief minister. JD(U) sources said they insisted on no other deputy CM.

Gadkari for 100% land acquisition before approving new NHs

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday that no new national highway projects should be approved without 100% land acquisition.

Several highway projects are being delayed due to slow progress in land acquisition.

"Land acquisition, and forest and environment clearance are major problems in highway projects. We had made it mandatory that without acquiring 90% of the land, no new national highway project will be started. Now, I think that without acquiring 100% of the land, we should not give an appointed date for new national highway projects," he said while addressing the 17th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards and Exhibitions on Viksit Bharat 2047 here on Friday.

An appointed date is the formal start date for a highway project, signalling that land acquisition and clearances are sufficiently in place for construction to begin.

India, Qatar reaffirm strong energy cooperation

Will remain a reliable energy supplier to India, says Qatari minister

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with Qatar Minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi in Doha on Friday. PTI

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG) Hardeep Singh Puri met Qatar's Energy Minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi in Doha on Friday and reaffirmed strong energy cooperation, with both sides calling for stability in global energy supplies amid disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict.

Puri arrived in Doha on Thursday on a two-day official visit as Qatar is India's single-largest supplier of LNG and LPG, providing 45% and 20%, respectively.

Qatar will remain a "reliable energy supplier" to India, said Al-Kaabi during talks with Puri in Doha, as both sides called for stability in global markets, said a statement from the P&NG Ministry.

During the meeting, Puri also conveyed greetings and a message of solidarity and support on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as well as the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, said an India government statement.

Puri and Al-Kaabi also emphasised the importance of "unimpeded freedom of navigation and the global flow of commerce" to maintain supply chains, the statement said, adding: "Both ministers also welcomed the two-week ceasefire agreed on April 8."

They reportedly discussed all aspects of the strategic relations between the two countries, including high-level engagements, trade, investment, energy, culture and people-to-people relations.

Centre defers thermal plant maintenance shutdowns

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Friday announced that annual maintenance shutdowns at thermal power plants will be deferred to ensure an additional 10,000 MW of generation capacity during the peak summer demand period.

The decision to postpone planned maintenance and repair work at thermal plants will help augment around 10,000 MW of power generation, more than offsetting the loss of approximately 8,000 MW capacity caused by disruptions in liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies due to the West Asia war, Piyush Singh, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power, told reporters.

The move aims to strengthen domestic power availability and meet electricity demand during the summer months.

Telangana 'free of Naxals' after surrender of 42 cadres

HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Telangana police on Friday officially announced the state free of armed Maoists after the surrender of 42 cadres, including a top leader, Sodi malla.

Addressing the media, Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy said Sodi Malla alias Keshal — who was the battalion commander of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) and Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee member — laid down 36 firearms, including five AK-47 rifles, 1,007 rounds of ammunition, and two hand grenades, along with 800 gm of gold. The remaining members of the Telangana State Committee also surrendered.

"Telangana is now totally free from the armed formations of CPI(Maoist)... Today's surrender of the remaining underground cadres of the PLGA Battalion, one of CPI(Maoist)'s most critical armed wings, along with their sophisticated firearms,

Weapons and other items handed over by Naxals are on display in Hyderabad on Friday. DHNS

marks the complete annihilation of the PLGA," he said.

"Only five active underground cadres from Telangana remain in various formations across the country outside Telangana. All five are operating in other states, including Chhattisgarh, and two among them are Central Committee Members of CPI(Maoist)," said Reddy, adding that Ganapathi, who was the central committee member and inactive since 2007, "is the only significant cadre left from Telangana".

10 tourists drown as boat capsizes in Yamuna

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Ten tourists drowned when a boat carrying them capsized in the Yamuna in Vrindavan on Friday.

The death toll may increase as at least five people were reported missing, according to reports.

Police said the mishap happened around noon, when the boat, carrying about 25-30 tourists, mostly from Punjab, lost balance amid strong winds midstream and capsized. Divers rescued around 12 people.

According to sources, the boat had a capacity of 15 people but it had more than 25 onboard. None of the tourists were wearing life jackets.

A search and rescue operation was launched for the missing and senior officials were monitoring it, the sources said.

A senior police official in Vrindavan said the rescued tourists were admitted in the community health centre.

A group of around 150 tourists — most of whom were from Punjab — was visiting Vrindavan, a religious town near Mathura. Some members of the group were on the boat.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HONEY, WE'D BETTER START GETTING READY IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THE DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC
12-31
OR WE CAN PROMISE OURSELVES TO DO THAT NEXT NEW YEAR'S EVE AND STAY HOME
SOUNDS PERFECT TO ME, HONEY

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

I'M GOING OUT FOR A SMOKE
I THOUGHT YOU QUIT SMOKING
I DID, BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP A GOOD EXCUSE FOR SOME ALONE TIME
GREG + MORT WALKER
12/18

Peanuts

I THOUGHT I WAS DUMB YESTERDAY... I'M REALLY DUMB TODAY!
I THINK THE BATTERY IN MY HEAD HAS GONE DEAD, MARCIE...
MAYBE THE CUSTODIAN HAS SOME JUMPER CABLES WE CAN BORROW, SIR
IT'S A SIN TO MAKE FUN OF A DUMB FRIEND, MARCIE!

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

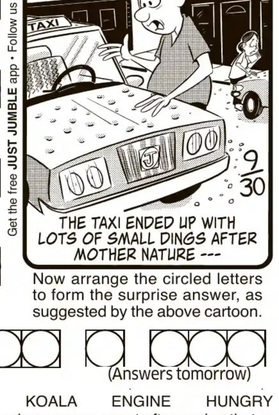
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOCTU

BIADE

FYRDAT

CATTHA



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

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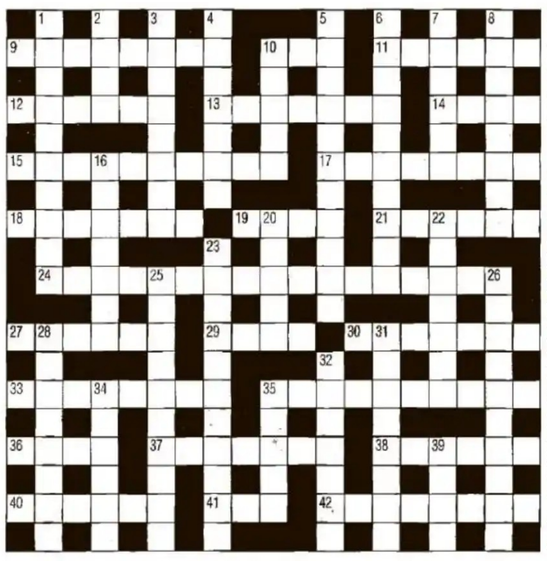
Yesterday's Jumbles: ENJOY KOALA ENGINE HUNGRY
Answer: The greenskeeper was upset after seeing that a gopher had made a — HOLE IN ONE

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4035



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Mull over and reckon to be not at home (5,3)
10 That's the fifteenth letter from France he's got (3)
11 Only about half ripe, suddenly (6)
12 Of course I would need to be trained in it (6)
13 Report on again when you get back (7)
14 Fish from the highest point (4)
15 With which, up to no good, one tripped over the campstool? (4,6)
17 Bottle up the remainder of the water (8)
18 Remained when I left to wander off (7)
19 She's some ballerina making a comeback (4)
21 Make a Green, somehow, see red (6)
24 Having been told it was wrong to sit down? (8,9)
27 She's put in the wrong seat again (6)
29 Claim to have in one's possession (4)
30 Extremely tough fight to get a bronze (7)
33 Very quick in giving me the rice to cook (8)
35 Remain impassive when you shake your head (4,2,4)
36 Is going into the mountain due to bad visibility (4)
37 Can I mend the torn net? It is old (7)
38 It's good to give fish to the ill (6)
40 Rush to fill up (6)
41 They're back numbers, child (3)
42 In which there are more likely to be donkeys than horses grazing! (3-5)

DOWN
1 Always the same - having an excuse for not tipping (10)
2 Give her some anemones to arrange (4)
3 Make it small as opposed to thick (8)
4 Began, you said, right in the middle (7)
5 Score with the cryptic clue for "tray" (7,1,3)
6 People try to act in it (5,5)
7 Outstrip when restored to health (6)
8 Looking quickly through the so-and-so book? (8)
10 Left in charge of it, is permissible (5)
16 It gives the pedigree one row at a time (7)
20 See California not as a visitor to it (5)
22 Proceeds to give the answers (7)
23 Should that be so, where is it packed? (2,5,4)
25 You, my love, are playing against the German (4,6)
26 Be nice and don't thump the cards down on the table! (4,6)
28 Yes, figure protecting it makes sense (8)
31 Fix and clean, with difficulty, the spire (8)
32 Vain, too; out to get applause (7)
34 The whole ten are mad with anger (6)
35 About military intelligence, is naive (5)
39 Set by the boy to trap one (4)

ACROSS
9 Tissue-decaying disease (8)
10 Unwell (3)
11 Actually (6)
12 Heavy food (6)
13 Movement of vehicles (7)
14 Rich soil mixture (4)
15 Impartiality (10)
17 Odd-job-person (8)
18 Make more dense (7)
19 Open pastry (4)
21 Mould a raised design (6)
24 Jane Austen novel (5,3,9)
27 Housefly larva (6)
29 Green vegetable (4)
30 Disease affecting livestock (7)
33 Car light (8)
35 Robbers (10)
36 Coal mines (4)
37 Character in children's tale (7)
38 Withdraw statement (6)
40 Wildlife tour (6)
41 Untruth (3)
42 Embarrassed (8)

DOWN
1 Military vessel (10)
2 Grew old (4)
3 Love song (8)
4 Long-haired person (7)
5 Tense movie (11)
6 Larded, braised veal fillet (10)
7 Edible grain (6)
8 Calendars (8)
10 European country (5)
16 Sailing technique (7)
20 Temporary drop in quality (5)
22 England, commonly (7)
23 Hard to upset (11)
25 Mercy killing (10)
26 Great happiness (10)
28 New Yorker, for example (8)
31 Factual film (8)
32 Worry greatly (7)
34 Consternation (6)
35 Barrier of shrubs (5)
39 Cloak (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12392

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Ro-W-an 6, A-orta 9, Barking 10, Pay up 11, Dr-ur-y 12, Defoe 13, Fo-Rev.-er 15, Jot 17, A-r-id 18, Beg-one 19, Major 20, The way 22, Sag-O 24, Sir 25, Feather 26, Senor 27, Ra-Di-i 28, Bimbo 29, Gran-Ted 30, Hyena 31, Telly
DOWN: 2, Orator 3, A-bus-Ed 4, Nap 5, Skier 6, An-Dover 7, Ogre 8, Tarpon 12, D-el-ay 13, F-acts 14, Rider 15, Jonah 16, Tenor 18, Boxer 19, Made-IRA 21, Hilary 22, St.-ride 23, Gerbil 25, Found 26, Si-G-n 28, Bet

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Scars 6, Barge 9, Ethical 10, Petty 11, Roots 12, Stage 13, Thirsty 15, Set 17, Rent 18, Bistro 19, Colon 20, Portal 22, Fire 24, Eve 25, Crooner 26, Ceded 27, Broom 28, Eager 29, Passing 30, Dozen 31, Delta
DOWN: 2, Creche 3, Retort 4, Sty 5, Ditty 6, Bargain 7, Aloe 8, Gather 12, Stool 13, Tripe 14, Inure 15, Stain 16, Tower 18, Board 19, Caveman 21, Overdo 22, Forage 23, Resent 25, Cease 26, Cope 28, End

◆SU-DO-KU-6877◆

			3	6				9
2		7	5				3	4
							5	
		9			3			2
	6	2				5	4	
5			2			7		
	1							
9	2				5	3		7
6				7	8			

medium

SOLUTION TO 6876

6	9	3	1	8	5	7	4	2
1	4	8	3	2	7	5	9	6
7	2	5	4	9	6	3	8	1
5	7	1	2	6	9	4	3	8
3	6	2	5	4	8	1	7	9
4	8	9	7	3	1	2	6	5
8	3	4	9	5	2	6	1	7
2	1	6	8	7	4	9	5	3
9	5	7	6	1	3	8	2	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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E1	H4	R1	S1	N1	I1	I1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
I1	G2	G2	N1	V4	I1	I1	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 2
S1	L1	S1	U1	P3	L1	E1		RACK 3
X8	N1	E1	A1	A1	T1	T1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 120-130
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3	O1	O1	N1	I1	E1	R1	RACK 1 =	59
S1	T1	Y4	L1	I1	S1	H4	RACK 2 =	67
D2	E1	V4	E1	L1	O1	P3	RACK 3 =	89
W4	O1	M3	A1	N1	L1	Y4	RACK 4 =	80
C3	R1	U1	M3	M3	Y4		RACK 5 =	15

PAR SCORE 205-215 JUDD'S TOTAL 310

HITORI-3331

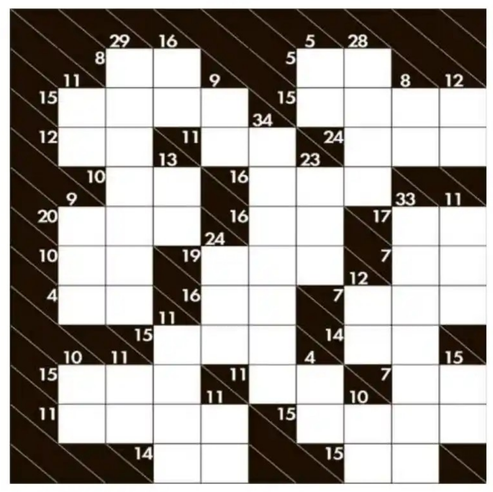
1	6	5	7	3	8	1	5
5	4	2	6	5	7	1	1
8	2	3	7	1	4	5	8
7	1	2	8	5	6	8	3
6	5	8	5	7	8	4	5
4	8	6	5	7	2	7	1
5	5	7	1	8	3	3	7
3	7	5	8	6	1	8	1

SOLUTION TO 3330

6	2	■	5	1	7	8	4
7	■	8	2	■	4	■	5
2	6	4	1	7	■	5	■
■	5	1	4	■	3	6	8
8	■	2	■	4	6	■	3
4	1	3	7	■	8	2	■
5	4	■	8	2	■	7	1
1	■	5	6	8	2	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3331



SOLUTION TO 3330

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3882

1	6			9	7			■
	■			1			■	
		■				■		
2		9	■		1		4	
			3	■				
	1		■		4			
		■			6	3	5	
	2	5		3			■	7
■		1	8		2		6	■

SOLUTION TO 3881

8	5	4	6	7	3	9	2	1
9	3	1	4	2	8	7	5	6
6	2	7	9	1	5	8	4	3
1	8	6	5	3	7	4	9	2
2	4	9	8	6	1	5	3	7
3	7	5	2	9	4	1	6	8
7	6	3	1	4	9	2	8	5
5	9	2	7	8	6	3	1	4
4	1	8	3	5	2	6	7	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Peace talks: 'Beijing stepped in and convinced Iran to agree to a preliminary truce'

In Pak's mediation to end West Asia war, China may hold key

ISLAMABAD, AFP

As Iranian and US envoys prepare to hold talks in Islamabad to end the Middle East war, official sources and experts say Beijing helped pave the way for the negotiations and will be a crucial component in securing a permanent truce.

Pakistan has received praise - and some surprise - on the global stage for its last-ditch clinching of a temporary ceasefire between the warring sides.

But Pakistani officials say Beijing's quieter role would now prove to be as essential as it was in striking the down-to-the-wire agreement that had looked set to fail on Tuesday night.

"On ceasefire night, hopes were fading, but China stepped in and convinced Iran to agree to a preliminary ceasefire," said a senior Pakistani official source familiar with the negotiations.

"While our efforts were central, we were falling short of a breakthrough, which was ultimately achieved after Beijing persuaded the Iranians," said the source, who requested anonymity to speak openly on a sensitive diplomatic matter.

That echoed President Donald Trump, who shortly after announcing the two-week ceasefire on social media, told AFP that China had been key to getting Iran to the negotiating table.

The planned talks had raised fragile hopes of an end to the war that has claimed thousands of lives and jolted the global economy since Israel and the United States launched strikes on February 28 and Iran responded with attacks on the Gulf as well as Israeli cities.

Pakistan, which has deep cultural and religious ties with neighbouring Iran and whose leaders share close personal rapport with Trump, will facilitate both sides.

To get a lasting agreement, it will need to steer the rival sides through fractious issues, including on the opening of the strategic Strait of Hormuz and the continuation of Iran's nuclear programme.

"Pakistan has formulated a team of experts to facilitate the two sides in negotiations, on navigation, nuclear and other related matters," said a second diplomatic source familiar with the matter, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak publicly.

The second source, along with several experts and former officials, told AFP that as Pakistan sets the negotiating table, all eyes were on China's role.

"China was requested to be a guarantor. Iran wants a guarantor," said the source.

A Lego-style AI-generated war-themed video playing on a smartphone screen in front of a photo of US President Donald Trump and US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. An Iranian group released video lampooning President Donald Trump and declaring 'Iran won', the latest in a wave of war-themed AI-generated propaganda flooding the internet. AFP

US inflation surges to 3.3% as war impact bites

Inflation in the United States rose sharply in March, government data showed Wednesday, as higher energy prices due to the war in the Middle East hit Americans hard, reports AFP.

The nationwide sticker shock put pressure on President Donald Trump, who has ordered peace talks with Iran and faces mid-term elections in November.

The rate of inflation rose to 3.3 percent year-on-year in March, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). By comparison, this same consumer price index (CPI) was 2.4 percent year-on-year a month earlier.

US directly involved in Pak PM's message, says NYT

NEW YORK, PTI: The White House was "directly involved" in shaping a social media post by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in which he "earnestly" requested US President Donald Trump to extend his April 7 deadline on Iran for two weeks, according to a media report.

The New York Times said the "White House was directly involved in shaping the message" that was shared on X on Tuesday by Sharif in which wrote "diplomatic efforts for peaceful settlement of the ongoing war in the Middle East are progressing steadily, strongly and powerfully with the potential to lead to substantive results in near future".

US to host Israel-Lebanon talks as strikes threaten Iran truce

WASHINGTON, AFP: Israel and Lebanon will hold talks in Washington next week, a State Department official said Thursday, amid mounting international concerns that Israel's bombing campaign could shatter an already fragile US-Iran ceasefire.

Israel's heaviest strikes on Lebanon since Hezbollah entered the Middle East war in early March killed hundreds on Wednesday, rattling the uneasy truce between Washington and Tehran less than 48 hours after it came into force.

"We can confirm that the Department will host a meeting next week to discuss ongoing ceasefire negotiations with Israel and Lebanon," the US official said.

The announcement came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered his ministers to seek direct talks with Lebanon focused on disarming Iran-backed Hezbollah.

But a Lebanese government official told AFP that Beirut required a truce before entering any negotiations with Israel.

Neither Israel nor Lebanon have publicly confirmed the US talks for next week, and Israel's latest strikes drew sharp rebuke from Iranian and Pakistani officials ahead of talks in Islamabad that are expected to focus on a key US demand: reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Hezbollah said it was engaged in close quarters combat against Israeli forces on the ground in southern Lebanon on Thursday, a day after Lebanese authorities said Israeli strikes killed at least 303 people and wounded 1,150.

Israel's army Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir visited ground troops inside Lebanon on Thursday, telling them Hezbollah had suffered a "heavy blow" from the strikes a day earlier.

In a sign that the violence could continue, Israel's military on Thursday issued a new evacuation order for Beirut's southern suburbs and said it was striking Hezbollah launch sites in Lebanon.

Israel's refusal to halt operations in Lebanon has cast a shadow over expected peace talks in Pakistan.

The two-week truce was agreed to allow negotiations between US and Iranian officials aimed at ending a conflict that has already killed thousands and plunged the global economy into turmoil.

Ukrainian forces shot down Shahed drones: Zelenskyy

Ukrainian military personnel have shot down Iranian-designed Shahed drones in multiple Middle Eastern countries during the Iran war, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, describing the operations as part of a broader effort to help partners counter the same weapons used by Russia in Ukraine, reports AP.

Zelenskyy made his first public acknowledgement of the operations on Wednesday in remarks to reporters that were embargoed until Friday. He said Ukrainian forces took part in active operations abroad using domestically produced interceptor drones proven in countering Iranian-designed Shahed drones used by Russia in Ukraine.

Israel slams Pak defence minister for 'outrageous' comments

JERUSALEM, PTI: In a strong denunciation of "outrageous" remarks made by Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Israel has raised doubts about its role as a "neutral arbiter".

"Pakistan Defence Minister's call for Israel's annihilation is outrageous," the Israeli Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X.

"This is not a statement that can be tolerated from any government, especially not from one that claims to be a neutral arbiter for peace," the PMO said Thursday evening.

Pakistan has been credited with mediating a temporary two-week ceasefire between US and Iran and is preparing to host peace talks over the weekend. However, Asif, in a social media post, called Israel "evil" and a "curse for humanity", giving a call "to get rid of European Jews".

Asif also claimed that as "peace talks are underway in Islamabad, genocide is being committed in Lebanon".

"Innocent citizens are being killed by Israel, first Gaza, then Iran and now Lebanon, bloodletting continues unabated," Asif said.

Rubio to visit India in May amid strained ties over tariffs

Announcement after talks with Foreign Secy Vikram Misri

WASHINGTON, PTI

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to visit New Delhi next month, it was announced here after his "productive meeting" with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on a range of issues, including trade and the Quad.

Misri, who is on a three-day visit here, met Rubio at the White House on Thursday. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relationships, especially trade, critical minerals, defence and the Quad.

"Welcome to the White House @VikramMisri! Productive meeting with @SecRubio that focused on our bilateral relationship, especially trade, critical minerals, defence and the Quad," US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, who was also present at the meeting, posted on X.

Marco Rubio

Secretary Rubio looks forward to visiting India next month, Gor said.

"We look forward to deepening our engagement in these important sectors and much more to strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," the Indian embassy in the US said in a post on X.

Earlier, Misri held separate meetings with US Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Allison Hooker.

"Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau met with Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri today in Washington. The leaders reaffirmed the close partnership between the two countries and shared news about the situation in the Persian Gulf and other global and regional priorities," Tommy Pigott, Principal Deputy Spokesman for Department of State, said in a statement.

Chinese, Taiwanese will unite, Xi tells Taiwan Oppn leader

BEIJING, AFP

China's President Xi Jinping met Taiwan's opposition party leader Cheng Li-wun in Beijing on Friday, telling the visiting delegation he had "full confidence" that Taiwanese and Chinese people would be united.

Kuomintang (KMT) chairwoman Cheng is the party's first leader to visit China in a decade, but her trip has sparked debate in Taiwan with critics accusing her of being too pro-Beijing.

China severed high-level contact with Taiwan in 2016 after Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the presidency and rejected Beijing's claims that the self-ruled island is part of its territory.

Xi told Cheng as the two met on Friday that "the general trend of compatriots on both sides of the Strait getting closer, edging nearer and becoming united will not change".

"This is an inevitable part of history. We have full confidence in this," Xi said during the talks carried by Taiwanese media.

He also said China was willing to strengthen dialogue with groups in Taiwan, including the KMT, on the "common political foundation of... opposing Taiwan independence".

Cheng Li-wun, chairperson of the Kuomintang, Taiwan's largest Opposition party, with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Friday. REUTERS

The KMT supports closer relations with China, which claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to seize it.

Cheng echoed Xi's stance at a press conference after their meeting, stressing the need for younger generations to understand "what challenges we face at this stage" and "how, by adhering to the 1992 Consensus and opposing Taiwan independence, we can avoid war".

The so-called consensus suggests there is "one China" without specifying which is its rightful representative.

Earlier, she told Xi that the Taiwan Strait would "no longer be a focal point of potential conflict" and "both sides should transcend political confrontation".

She also said Xi had responded "positively" to her proposal that the sides work toward Taiwan participating in international organisations such as Interpol and regional trade agreements.

A spokesman for Taiwan's ruling DPP said China should respect Taiwan's "commitment to freedom and democracy, rather than interfering in the choices of the Taiwanese people through division and inducement".

"Differences between the two sides must be handled through peaceful and equal means, rather than by using suppression and intimidation," spokesman Lee Kuen-cheng said.

Meta must face youth addiction lawsuit by Massachusetts: Court

BOSTON, REUTERS: Meta Platforms must face a lawsuit by Massachusetts' attorney general alleging that the Facebook and Instagram parent deliberately designed features to addict young users, the state's top court ruled.

The ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court marked the first time a state high court has considered whether a federal law that generally shields internet companies from lawsuits over content posted by their users would also bar claims that companies like Meta knowingly addicted young users.

Meta has denied the allegations and says the company takes extensive steps to keep teens and young users safe. The decision comes in the wake of a landmark trial in which a Los Angeles jury on March 25 found Meta and Alphabet's Google negligent for designing social media platforms that are harmful to young people. It awarded a combined $6 mn to a 20-year-old woman who said she became addicted to social media as a child. A separate jury a day earlier found Meta owed $375 million in civil penalties in a lawsuit by New Mexico's attorney general accusing the company of misleading users.

100 DAYS IN OFFICE

Mamdani's way: NYC mayor getting the job done

NEW YORK, AP

In his first 100 days in office, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has governed with a star power unusual in politics.

Crowds of supporters show up to his news conferences. Basic municipal services have been infused with newfound excitement. Celebrities help him promote his agenda.

In the process, he's been able to notch a few notable early wins. And he's reached a detente - at least for now - with President Donald Trump, a mercurial leader with an affinity for celebrities.

But as Mamdani, a Democrat, marks an early milestone in his mayoralty, it remains to be seen whether he'll be able to leverage his fame into achieving the progressive policy proposals that propelled him to office.

Zohran Mamdani

Though he's not without staunch critics, many of whom still view his past criticisms of the police department and Israel as major problems, the mayor has been able to ease concerns among at least some sceptics.

"It's early, but so far, so good," said Jay Jacobs, chair of the state's Democratic Party, who made waves for not endorsing Mamdani during the election. "We may not agree on everything philosophically, but he is getting the job done."

Work as hard and as fast as New Yorkers'

As the mayor approached his 100th day - long a benchmark for judging an administration's opening vision - his team has moved to highlight the administration's commitment to the everyday responsibilities of the job.

While many of those duties are typical for his local office - picking up trash, ploughing snow and filling potholes - the 34-year-old mayor has leaned on his knack for viral content creation to drive interest and awareness of government programs.

As a storm bore down on the city this winter, Mamdani's calls on social media for more snow shovelers helped recruit thousands of new shovelers. Another social media video announcement from the mayor this winter, this time about the city's emergency alert system, brought more than 50,000 new subscribers to the program in a week, his office said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Leo XIV exchanges gifts with French President Emmanuel Macron, during a private audience in Vatican City on Friday. AFP

Europe could face jet fuel crunch within weeks: Airports body

▸ Europe's airport industry group has warned that the continent could face a systemic jet fuel shortage in three weeks unless the Strait of Hormuz opens up, calling for urgent EU-wide action to secure supplies ahead of the peak summer travel season, reports Reuters.

In a letter to the European Commission dated April 9, the Airports Council International Europe (ACI) said a fuel crunch would "significantly harm the European economy," compounding the macroeconomic impact of rising oil prices triggered by the Middle East conflict. The Financial Times was first to report on the letter on Friday. The Commission did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Air connectivity contributes 851 billion euros ($997.03 billion) in gross domestic product annually for European economies and supports 14 million jobs, with airports handling 26% of Europe's exports by value, based on data up to 2019 from an ACI study.

A meeting of the European Commission's oil coordination group this week showed there was currently no EU-wide mapping, assessment or monitoring of jet fuel production and availability, ACI director general Olivier Jankovec said in the letter.

African charity sues Prince Harry

▸ A charity co-founded by Prince Harry in Africa to honour his late mother, Princess Diana, has sued him for defamation after he stepped down as a patron last year, reports AP from London.

Sentebale, which supports young people living with HIV in Botswana and Lesotho, filed suit last month in London's High Court, according to court records reviewed Friday.

Online filings show Harry and his friend, Mark Dyer, a trustee at the charity, are being sued for either libel or slander. No documents were available.

Disagreements at the charity surfaced in 2023 over a new fundraising strategy. Harry and Prince Seeiso of Lesotho, co-founders of the charity, stepped down as patrons in March 2025.

At the time, they said the relationship between the board and its chair, Sophie Chandauka, was beyond repair. Chandauka later accused Harry of orchestrating a campaign of bullying and harassment to try to force her out.

10 Indians indicted for visa fraud

▸ Ten Indian nationals, living illegally in the US, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Boston for conspiring to carry out staged armed robberies at convenience stores for the purpose of visa fraud, reports PTI from New York.

The individuals were previously charged by a criminal complaint in March.

They have been indicted by a federal grand jury with one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud in connection with a conspiracy to carry out staged armed robberies at convenience stores for the purpose of allowing store clerks to falsely claim they were crime victims on immigration applications.

The defendants are Jitendrakumar Patel, 39; Maheshkumar Patel, 36; Sanjaykumar Patel, 45; Dipikaben Patel, 40, deported to India after unlawfully residing in Massachusetts; Rameshbhai Patel, 52; Amitabahen Patel, 43; Ronakkumar Patel, 28; Sangitaben Patel, 36; Minkesh Patel, 42 and Sonal Patel, 42.

US actress Nia Long poses for photographers as she arrives on the red carpet for the world premiere of the Michael Jackson biopic "Michael" at the Uber Eats Music Hall in Berlin on Friday. AFP

Kamala might run for prez again

▸ Former Vice President Kamala Harris, who was the Democratic Party's nominee for the presidency in 2024, said on Friday that she was considering running for president again in 2028, reports Reuters.

Harris, making an appearance at a meeting of the National Action Network, a civil rights organization founded by Reverend Al Sharpton, was asked directly by Sharpton if she was going to run again.

"I might, I might. I'm thinking about it, I'm thinking about it," Harris said, as the crowd at the New York City event cheered in response.

Kamala Harris

Harris added that she would consider a run in the context of who, in 2028, could do the best job as president "for the American people." Harris, who served as vice president under President Joe Biden, lost her 2024 presidential bid to President Donald Trump, who won both the popular vote and the Electoral College. Harris had previously served as a U.S. senator and as attorney general of California, among other offices.

Biz Bytes

Tata Sons listing in public interest: Mistry

NEW DELHI, PTI: SP Group Chairman Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry on Friday again pressed for listing of Tata Sons, saying it is not merely a regulatory compliance but a necessary evolution in the public interest, reposing faith in the government and RBI to "act decisively" on the matter.

In a statement, Mistry said the SP Group has "full faith in the government of India and the Reserve Bank of India to act decisively" on the matter of listing of Tata Sons. So far, no clear evidence-based case has been presented to explain how a public listing would materially damage the interests of the Tata Trusts or reduce their ability to serve beneficiaries.

Rupee falls 32 paise

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day 32 paise lower at 92.83 against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by risks from rising global tensions, especially the US-Iran conflict. Forex traders said the rupee witnessed high volatility as the deadline for the RBI's instructions to banks to curb their overnight positions to $100 million closes on Friday amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 92.58 against the US dollar and hit the day's high of 92.41, before losing ground to eventually settle at 92.83, down 32 paise from its previous close.

Vingroup to invest $6.5 bn in Maharashtra

NEW DELHI, PTI: Vietnam's Vingroup on Friday said it has entered into an agreement with the Maharashtra government to explore investments worth about $6.5 billion across multiple sectors in the state. The company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Maharashtra government, establishing a collaborative framework to explore strategic investments across multiple sectors in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and broader Maharashtra, Vingroup said in a statement.

The investments include integrated urban townships, electric mobility solutions, renewable energy, and social and public infrastructure, it added.

Forex reserves jump by $9 bn to $697.12 bn: RBI

MUMBAI, PTI: India's forex reserves jumped by $9.063 billion to $697.121 billion for the week ended April 3, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, which ended on March 27, the overall reserves had dropped by $10.288 billion to $688.058 billion.

The forex kitty had expanded to an all-time high of $728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year, before the onset of the West Asia crisis, which led to several weeks of depletion.

The rupee has come under pressure since the start of the West Asia conflict, and the RBI has been intervening in the forex market through dollar sales and had to take some surprising policy measures to harness the fall.

ADB raises India's FY27 GDP projection to 6.9%

Flags prolonged West Asia conflict risk for Asia

NEW DELHI, PTI

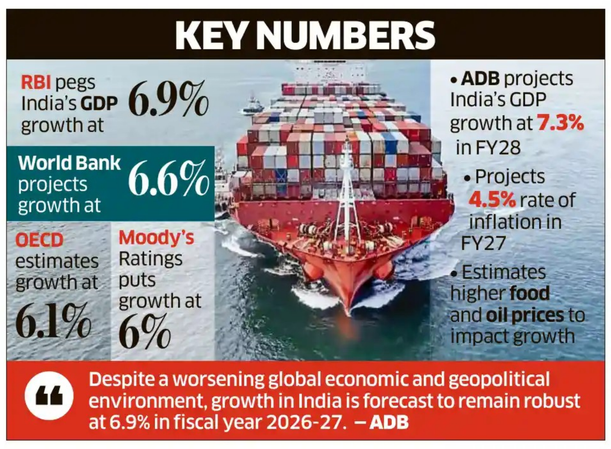
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday projected India's GDP growth to remain "robust" at 6.9% in the current fiscal, and rise to 7.3% in next fiscal driven by strong domestic demand, and supported by easing financing conditions and lower US tariffs on Indian goods.

In its Asian Development Outlook April 2026 report, the ADB said a prolonged conflict in the Middle East could undermine India's macroeconomic performance through multiple channels, including higher energy prices, trade flow disruptions, and weaker remittance inflows.

It projected inflation to more than double from 2.1% in 2025-26 to 4.5% in the current fiscal due to a rebound in food prices from earlier declines, higher global oil prices, currency weakness, and rising precious metal prices. It projected inflation to ease to 4% in the 2027-28 fiscal on account of lower oil prices and moderating food prices.

"A prolonged conflict in the Middle East is the single biggest risk to the (developing Asia and Pacific) region's outlook, as it could lead to persistently high energy and food prices and tighter financial conditions," said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park. "With renewed trade policy uncertainty posing additional risks, it is essential that governments implement sound macroeconomic policies to sustain growth and contain inflation, with targeted support measures to protect vulnerable households."

ADB expects economic growth in developing Asia and the Pacific to slow to 5.1% in both 2026 and 2027, from 5.4% last year, weighed down by the conflict in the Middle East and continuing trade uncertainty.


KEY NUMBERS
RBI pegs India's GDP growth at 6.9%
World Bank projects growth at 6.6%
OECD estimates growth at 6.1%
Moody's Ratings puts growth at 6%
• ADB projects India's GDP growth at 7.3% in FY28
• Projects 4.5% rate of inflation in FY27
• Estimates higher food and oil prices to impact growth
Despite a worsening global economic and geopolitical environment, growth in India is forecast to remain robust at 6.9% in fiscal year 2026-27. – ADB

The recent surge in energy prices and potential disruptions to fertiliser markets linked to the conflict in the Middle East could lead to inflationary pressure on global food prices, it said.

With regard to India, ADB said GDP growth is projected to decline to 6.9% in current fiscal (April-March), from 7.6% in 2025-26 primarily due to external challenges, and expand to 7.3% in FY2027 as consumption and investment benefit from favourable policies and the external environment improves.

A key policy challenge of India is to rationalise subsidies and transfers to protect vulnerable groups while preserving fiscal space for growth-enhancing public investment, it said.

"Despite a worsening global economic and geopolitical environment, growth in India is forecast to remain robust at 6.9% in fiscal year 2026 (2026-27). Activity will be underpinned by strong domestic demand, supported by easing financing conditions, and lower US tariffs on Indian goods," it said.

ADB's growth projections compare with 6.9% estimated by the RBI, 6.6% by the World Bank, 6.1% by the OECD and 6% by Moody's Ratings.

Growth is projected to rise to 7.3% in FY 2027-28, driven by domestic reforms, the effects of trade agreements with the European Union, and expected government salary increases, ADB added.

In the Asia Development Outlook report released in December, 2025, ADB had projected India's GDP growth at 6.5% for 2026-27 fiscal.

Although rising inflation, especially food and petroleum products, may temper private consumption in the current fiscal, GDP growth in next fiscal would see marked improvement as domestic demand strengthens due to hikes in salaries/pensions of government employees and an uptick in investment benefitting from key regulatory reforms, ADB said.

External demand is expected to strengthen as the benefits from the trade deal with the European Union (EU) boosts exports.

Sensex up 900 pts on global cues

Markets rebound 1% on buying in financial counters, rally in global peers

MUMBAI PTI

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged over 1% on Friday, propelled by buying in banking counters and a positive trend in global equities.

Investor sentiment improved amid hopes of further easing in the West Asia crisis ahead of US-Iran negotiations and lower crude prices, analysts said.

After staying in the positive territory throughout the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex later jumped 918.60 points or 1.20% to settle at 77,550.25. During the day, it surged 990.85 points or 1.29% to 77,622.50.

A total of 3,360 stocks advanced while 945 declined and 144 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 275.50 points or 1.16% to end at 24,050.60.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 4,230.7 points or 5.77%, and the Nifty surged 1,337.5 points or 5.88%.

"The positive momentum was primarily driven by improving global sentiment amid hopes of further easing in Middle East tensions ahead of scheduled negotiations between the US and Iran. This led to cooling crude oil prices and supported risk appetite for emerging markets like India," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, InterGlobe Aviation, Axis Bank and State Bank of India were the major gainers.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra and HCL Tech were the laggards.

The BSE Small Cap Select index jumped 1.64%, and the MidCap Select index climbed 1.50%.

The positive trend was led by buying in banking, auto and financial stocks, while IT counters saw some profit booking after TCS' financial results.

Royal Enfield launches first electric motorcycle Flying Flea

BENGALURU, DHNS: The new city+ electric mobility brand from Royal Enfield, Flying Flea, opened its new store in Bengaluru on Friday and launched its first motorcycle, the Flying Flea C6.

Built from the ground up as a fully optimised, rider-centric electric motorcycle, the FF.C6 is powered by a 3.91 kWh battery.

Royal Enfield Flying Flea Green Electric motorcycle

Powered by a team of over 200 engineers across India and the UK, and backed by 45+ patent applications, Flying Flea is developed entirely in-house at the Flying Flea Tech Centre.

Speaking on the launch of the motorcycle, B Govindarajan, Managing Director - Eicher Motors Ltd. and Chief Executive Officer - Royal Enfield, said that with the Flying Flea C6, they are marking the first step into electric motorcycling in the 125th year.

"For the launch of FF.C6, we are taking a steady, city-by-city approach and will initially roll it out in phases. We have a strong pipeline of electric two-wheelers that will continue to build on our vision over time," he said.

Matt Cardenas, Head Product Strategy, Flying Flea and EVs at Royal Enfield, said that they wanted to create the best product to attract new riders. "We wanted to create something that is visually inspiring, amazing to ride and has cutting-edge technology," he said.

The FF.C6 features a contemporary interpretation of the original Flying Flea's front suspension, incorporating a precision-engineered forged aluminium Girder fork and articulating mudguard.

He said there is selectable charging speed- Rapid, Standard and Trickle- giving riders control over time, efficiency and battery usage based on their routine. He said the battery goes from 20% to 80% in over 60 minutes and delivers approximately 1 km of range per minute of charging.

The FF.C6 comes in two colours- Flea Green and Storm Black. Bookings commenced from April 10, and deliveries are set to begin at the end of May 2026. The FF.C6 will be available at Rs 2.79 lakh (ex-showroom)/ Rs 1.99 lakh (Battery-as-a-Service).

RBI to include public sector undertakings in upper-layer NBFCs

MUMBAI, PTI

The Reserve Bank on Friday proposed changes in the criteria for identifying upper-layer non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), pitching for an asset-size-based approach as against the earlier parametric system and inclusion of state-run entities.

As per the draft 'Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies' Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Second Amendment Directions, 2026', upper-layer NBFCs will be those having assets of over Rs 1 lakh crore.

"With a view to adopt a transparent, simple and absolute criteria for identification of NBFC-UL, it is proposed to replace the existing methodology with asset size criteria, which is currently proposed as Rs 1,00,000 crore and above," the draft put on the RBI website said.

The draft comes at a time when the listing of Tata Sons, the holding company of the salt-to-software conglomerate, is under intense conversation, and all eyes are focused on whether the entity, a core investment company, gets a reprieve.

As per the RBI mandate, the top-15 entities in the upper layer have to list, and only Tata Sons had not gone for listing even after the October 2025 deadline, despite featuring in the list.

The draft norms also pitched for the inclusion of the government-run entities in the list of upper-layer NBFCs.

"The scale-based regulation framework currently places government-owned NBFCs in the base layer or middle layer and not in the UL. In pursuance of the principle of ownership neutral regulatory regime for NBFCs, it is now proposed to consider eligible government-owned NBFCs also for inclusion in the list of NBFC-UL based on the revised criteria," it said.

Tata Sons had an asset base of Rs 1.75 lakh crore as of March 2025. A slew of state-run enterprises, which are large enough in size, were excluded from the UL list.

The draft also proposes to allow all NBFC-UL to use state government guarantees as a credit risk transfer instrument without any limit, subject to the specified conditions.

Governor Sanjay Malhotra had on Wednesday announced that the Reserve Bank will be coming up with a revised framework on NBFCs, when asked about the update on Tata Sons' compliance with the earlier directions.

2.22 L appeals disposed off in FY26

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Income Tax Department disposed of 2.22 lakh appeals during the last financial year, a nearly 29% increase compared to the previous fiscal as part of its efforts to reduce disputes with taxpayers, according to official data.

Officials told PTI that CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal wrote a fiscal-end letter to the department's staffers praising their efforts for the past year and stressed that their actions in the current fiscal (2026-27) should be "guided" by data, "proportionate" actions and aligned with the larger objective of providing a "fair and efficient" tax system.

He said the department disposed of 2,22,540 appeals during the last fiscal, compared to 1,72,361 appeals addressed during the comparative 2024-25 fiscal, representing a growth of 29.11%.

Inflow in equity MFs up 56% in March

NEW DELHI, PTI: Equity mutual funds witnessed a net inflow of Rs 40,450 crore in March, marking an increase of 56%from the preceding month, reflecting sustained investor confidence despite market volatility and heightened geopolitical tensions.

This was the highest monthly net inflow after July 2025, when the equity-oriented mutual funds received a net inflow of Rs 42,702 crore.

Moreover, monthly contributions through SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) rose to an all-time high of Rs 32,087 crore from Rs 29,845 crore in the preceding month, highlighting the growing preference for disciplined, systematic investing, according to the data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), here on Friday.

Swiggy board rejig: Co-founder Nandan Reddy exits

BENGALURU, DHNS: Swiggy Co-founder Nandan Reddy will step down from the company's board and move on from Swiggy to pursue personal independent projects. This comes at a time when Swiggy is undertaking a broader reshuffle of its board. On Friday, Swiggy announced a series of strategic updates to its Board of Directors at its meeting held on Friday.

The company has approved the appointment of Co-founder Phani Kishan and Group CFO Rahul Bothra as Executive Directors effective June 1, 2026. Additionally, the company is welcoming Renan De Castro Alves Pinto from Prosus Ventures as a Nominee Director.

Rahul Bothra joined Swiggy as its first Chief Financial Officer. With over two decades of experience across domestic and international markets, Rahul has played a central role in shaping Swiggy's financial and strategic trajectory, leading its evolution from a VC-backed food delivery startup into a multi-category, publicly listed platform, the company said in a statement.

In his current role as Chief Growth Officer, Phani's work spans business strategy, high-impact partnerships, cross-platform usage, and solving complex problems at scale, contributing to Swiggy's evolution into an operating system for modern life.

"Phani and Rahul have been with Swiggy since the early days and have been instrumental in steering the company through its most defining chapters. Their understanding of our business and unwavering focus on both innovation and execution have been foundational to our journey. As we enter the next phase of our growth, their perspective will be invaluable in shaping our long-term direction," said Sriharsha Majety, Group CEO, Swiggy.

In a BSE filing, the company mentioned that Roger Clark Rabalais, Nominee Director, and Lakshmi Nandan Reddy Obul, WholeTime Director – Head of Innovation have resigned with effect from April 10, 2026, to pursue other professional commitments.

BUMPY JOURNEY

AI-infused models reshape IT firms' workforce strategies

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

HCLTech's US arm, HCL America, has filed a WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act of 1988) notice in the US to lay off 101 to 250 people in Florida, and this highlights how IT services firms are reshaping their workforce strategies. As IT services firms deal with the rapidly changing marketplace as well as their own change in operating models, they are adjusting headcount, skills, and location.

Analysts said one of the most significant forces driving these changes is the hyper-competitive pricing environment and the need to cut costs to maintain profitability.

According to WARN Tracker.com, which provides layoff insights from public records, on March 27, 2026, HCL America filed a notice and informed that the layoff date would be May 26. Its data showed that 7.7 million employees have been laid off from Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft & 38,170 other companies from 1988 to 2026.

The WARN Act outlines requirements for employers who are performing large layoffs or office closures to notify employees, as well as state government officials, of these job losses at least 60 days in advance.

The layoff at HCL will start from May 29 and continue till the end of the year. Previously, in February, HCL filed a notice saying the layoff range would be 51 to 100 people and the layoff date would be April 20.

Reports suggest that apart from HCLTech, Florida, Texas, and Pennsylvania received notices from Hinduja Global Services and Infosys in the first three months of 2026. These notices do not necessarily imply layoffs, it can also be work transfers, reports added.

Talking about the changing marketplace, Peter Bendor-Samuel, Founder and Executive Chairman of Everest Group, told *DH* that the changes at HCLTech and other firms are a reflection of these forces. "The velocity of change makes this appear as if broad secular shifts are underway, which, at one level, is true, as the new AI-infused operating model takes hold. However, this is a bumpy journey. The current changes in numbers and skill mix are not an indication that there is a pullback from the market or that the fundamental offshore and onshore ratio is going to change. But more a factor of overall change and increasing needs to keep budget under control and margins acceptable," he explained.

Considering the present geo-political environment and crisis, will clients give preference to AI transformation deals? Peter Bendor-Samuel said all major firms are asking their tech services partners to deliver the savings promised from AI. Hence, firms that do not have compelling capabilities or a strong vision of how AI will allow them to reduce costs and improve productivity are losing share. He said most clients are cautious about undertaking large transformations that change their business models.

Most are experimenting in tightly defended areas, but the long-awaited broad business transformation is yet to emerge.

"That is not to say that there are not first movers and some notable large transformational deals in the market, but they are few and unlikely to grow significantly for some time," he added.

During the company's earnings call, K Krithivasan, CEO and MD, TCS, said AI will enable clients to rapidly move from end customer feedback to demand identification to code. "Our clients are quite interested in leveraging AI. They know this will be constantly evolving, and there is no major benefit in waiting for the next best model to come," he said.

Analysts view FY27 as a mixed year for Indian IT services firms, with AI creating both headwinds and tailwinds in all the key sectors. "In the most important sector, SDLC (software development life cycle), we see a net headwind as AI compresses revenues before it opens substantial new scope in 3-4 years. This is the setting of a war for share, which is creating intense pricing pressure while also shrinking the overall TAM (total addressable market). In other sectors, we see AI creating a net tailwind, opening new scope faster than it compresses revenue. These areas are BPO, AI data centre construction and management, consulting, and others. This year will likely have flat to modest growth as the fight for share in the SDLS market unleashes intense pricing and business change while other areas create some much-needed lift," Peter Bendor-Samuel said.

According to Kapil Joshi, CEO of IT Staffing, Quess Corp, AI-led transformation is now becoming central to client strategy, and this is where he sees strong momentum building. "Clients are prioritising cost efficiency, automation, and productivity gains, leading to more focused, ROI-driven engagements. Sectors such as BFSI, manufacturing, and energy continue to show strong demand, driven by investments in digital and AI capabilities. While there may be 2-3% pricing pressure in traditional services, this is being offset by new opportunities, with AI expected to unlock a $300-400 billion market by 2030. Overall, the outlook for FY27 remains cautiously optimistic, with growth increasingly driven by AI, efficiency, and innovation-led transformation," he added.

DH ILLUSTRATION: SAGAR M S

When dating coaches play cupid

Despite access to endless apps, modern dating often feels like an uphill, lonely battle. You have probably heard young singles talk about dating scams, swipe fatigue and 'not enough fish in the sea'. Sweekruthi K meets a Bengaluru-based relationship coach who is helping people improve their dating scores and strike the right match

What comes to mind when you think of the word 'matchmaker'? One friend described an astrologer seated cross-legged in a dimly lit room in a bylane. Another shared stories of an 'aunty' in their society who circulates biodata daily. And, true to the digital age, some couples pointed to dating apps and matrimonial websites.

The average Netflix viewer is reminded of Sima Taparia from 'Indian Matchmaking'. One friend recalled an iconic moment from the show. 'Sima Aunty' is with Aparna, one of her clients, when she notices pet photos on the wall. "You have put up all these pictures of kittens?" she asks. "No, that's my dog, Conan," says Aparna, as the camera zooms in on paintings of a fluffy brown terrier mix. The exchange went viral — the irony of a professional being so disconnected from the client she is meant to help find a life partner. The incident captures the humour and hijinks that come with navigating the dating world.

With cities and online spaces growing faster than ever, finding meaningful connections has become harder. This has fuelled the rise of matchmaking and dating services. Some promise an 'elite' pool of members, while others remain invite-only. Many platforms position their algorithms as their USP, matching people based on highly specific preferences such as books, music, political leanings, pets, and even memes. But now, a growing number of singles are seeking a personalised approach or offline-driven connections, and that is where people like Radhika Mohta come in. She is a Bengaluru-based dating coach and matchmaker.

Radhika "works with legally single people from the point they decide to start dating until marriage". Each client starts with a dating score on a scale of 1 to 10, based on a quiz about their dating habits (such as communication skills or attachment styles). A second metric comes from self-assessment, capturing how clients rate their dating life and where they want it to be in a few months. The goal of relationship coaching is to help someone move from where they are to where they want to be.

The emphasis is on 'dating with intention' — having clarity about your goals and a willingness to grow. "When you know what you are looking for, finding one (right) person to connect with is not difficult. Making progress can be as simple as creating a date-ready wardrobe. The coaching process also helps you become aware of your blind spots," she says.

People first

On the 'About' sections of matchmaking platforms, one often encounters the story that started it all. Typically, founders create the service to solve a dating problem they faced themselves.

Radhika, a 39-year-old originally from Indore, is neither a conventional matchmaker arranging alliances nor a trained relationship counsellor. She is a mass communication graduate. Her journey into relationship coaching began with her ease around people. In her element, she is able to spot connections naturally and finds simple, personable ways to connect — over a funny anecdote, a shared love for coffee, or curiosity about the origin of someone's name. Before the interview began, she asked me, "What is one thing that made you happy today?" Her attentive listening draws people in and encourages them to share honest snippets about themselves.

Radhika interned at a radio station in Pune and then worked in news media in Mumbai. Later, she founded a surprise gifting startup, followed by a poha cloud kitchen in Bengaluru. Through these multiple stints, she met people from all walks of life. She began noticing a common thread. "Across cities and friend circles, even during a carpool ride, people felt comfortable sharing their relationship troubles and stories of heartbreak with me," she says.

In 2019, she began actively asking people about their dating challenges. "I would set up 45-minute calls with them, free of cost. Most often, they would say they felt better just talking it out with me," she recalls.

Being able to listen actively, show empathy, and ask thoughtful questions came naturally to her. Podcasts and books helped too, but ultimately, her attention to people, their behaviour, and dating patterns helped her build a career as a relationship coach. It is a relatively new field in India, and 'experts' like her are not too many. She says her eclectic interests help people discover her work. She organises the Poha-Jalebi Club, a breakfast meetup, and also volunteers as a host for startup events. Today, her connections span fields such as IT, law, advertising, banking, and the startup ecosystem.

In about seven years, she has worked with over 7,000 singles through her range of services, and she has coached more than 1,000 of them. Her clients are aged from their mid-20s up to 40, across India and overseas. "My biggest learning has been that no matter how different we are, everyone shares the need to be seen, heard, understood and believed. This is the same regardless of profession, salary, or status," she says. Today, she also shares her expertise on dating markets as a guest faculty member at IIM Bangalore.

Common ground

Niche apps and regional matchmakers tend to serve those looking to find a partner based on faith, class, caste, language, and other more 'traditional' criteria. But the new crop of dating apps and coaches emphasises shared values and interests, drawing users with similar mindsets.

Radhika Mohta

Radhika's first matchmaking success came right after the pandemic. She had connected two people working at the same e-commerce company, but based in different cities. What began with her creating a WhatsApp group to introduce them ended with the couple sharing a 'Save the Date' update in the same group a year later.

Radhika's approach hinges on taking the leap to connect people when she sees "an overlap in personality or interests". "People hesitate to take the risk, fearing their friendship might suffer if the match fails. But ultimately, birds of a feather flock together," she says.

In other cases, her role involves building initial trust or an 'accountability layer' through community activities. A girl and a boy once met on a food walk she organised in Bengaluru. Later, they happened to match on a dating app and, since they had already met and been "vetted", decided to go out. "Another time, a girl messaged me about how she spent New Year's Eve with a guy she had met on a run organised along Marine Drive in Mumbai, after which she messaged him on Instagram," says Radhika.

In her observation, people focused on self-improvement and dating better are generally drawn to her services, which naturally filters some out. "One person approached me and asked to look through my 'database' because he already knew what he wanted and how to proceed. But I don't do biodatas!" she says. In other cases, upbringing and deeply held thought patterns pose a challenge, as some people aren't able to move past them. In one instance, the wedding of a couple she had matched was called off 19 days before the ceremony due to conflict between the families, leading to disagreements between the couple.

Cost of connection

A basic package on mainstream matrimonial services starts at around Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000, offering access to profiles or a wider pool of them. Add-on costs allow access to 'premium' profiles or services such as coaching. For specialised platforms, especially those with global profiles or a large NRI base, rates can start at around Rs 20,000 and go up to Rs 1.2 lakh and beyond.

Radhika's dating accelerator programme is priced at Rs 12,000. It includes a consultation, an online course, an in-person gathering, and a post-event assessment call. She also offers a pre-recorded video programme for Rs 5,000, which includes tests to assess one's personality, attachment style, and love languages, along with activities such as 'Three questions to ask yourself before you start dating' and writing a manifestation letter. She also offers a 20-minute one-on-one consultation for Rs 1,500.

While more 'faceless' apps lean towards guaranteed matches in their branding, matchmakers make it clear from the start that there are no certainties and no refunds. Bengaluru-based Anamika (name changed), a retired nurse and mother of three, specialises in setting people up in an 'arranged dating' format, where families are closely involved. "I connect people; it is up to them to take it forward the right way," she says.

Forgoing rigid dating checklists is something many services and professionals emphasise. "Conventional dating can be draining, because people focus on outcomes as if they are dealing with commodities," Radhika says. For men in their mid-30s looking to date, hair loss is a major concern, with some getting "cancelled" by potential partners immediately. Body image is also an intense challenge for women, who often face invasive questions and comments.

An old classmate, who is intermittently plugged into the matchmaking process, with nudges from her family, says the scrutiny makes the process exhausting. "I am so tired of people digging into my financial background or asking around about my family's reputation to see if we'd be a good match," says the 29-year-old, who works at a law firm.

A *Forbes* survey this year revealed that over 78% of dating app users report fatigue or burnout. Factors included the pressure of creating a public-facing profile, the high incidence of ghosting, the depersonalised process, the seemingly endless pool of users, and a lack of meaningful conversation. "These apps are built to make it difficult to match with the right person. The algorithm is built for retention," believes Rohan, a software engineer who recently quit the apps. He adds that people are increasingly lying about themselves on their profiles; many turn out very different in person. Other users reported high expectations to be impressive and witty from the start.

Having met her own partner at a coworking space, Radhika points to the power of shared interests and activities in easing some of this pressure. In her early work, this included concepts like audio-only dates, and slow dating within communities on Discord. The ambit has now expanded to morning runs, board game nights, movie clubs, coffee shop meetups, and pickleball matches.

To Radhika, the growing popularity of community events shows that people are done with dating in "digital silos and isolation". "Earlier, people would meet at house parties, concerts, potlucks, or movies," she says. She believes that connecting in non-performative spaces, where people share activities they genuinely enjoy, makes connections richer.

Listening to users

A key differentiator in matchmaking services is how they build trust with users. A few months ago, a singles' events company came under fire on Reddit after reports emerged of them charging men for entry, while paying a group of women to attend and pose as real users of the service. In their battle to maintain a balanced gender ratio, many platforms also offer free entry for women while charging men. "If (enough) women are not signing up, do they trust you?" Radhika asks.

For her events, she chooses well-lit venues with separate bathrooms and low noise levels, and has female volunteers to help out. Feedback from attendees of other events helped shape her approach initially, and she now continues to learn on the go. Understanding what formats work and what overwhelms people, such as speed dating or being photographed, is key. Her takeaway: women are more likely to attend gatherings that do not explicitly market themselves as singles' mixers. "For the past 15 months, we haven't put together any 'singles' events as we found women were less willing to show up — and what is the point if people are not comfortable?" she asks.

Being present and approachable has also been vital. "At a run, a woman participant came up to me and shared that she was uncomfortable with another participant taking everyone's phone numbers, including hers," she says. Radhika intervened and ensured the issue was addressed immediately.

Exploitative pricing and scams in the dating market have made this trust-building process more challenging. Clear messaging and listening closely to user feedback can help tackle this, she says.

World of possibility

Even in this world of options, dating fatigue is a consistent and real struggle. If you have been single past your early 20s or in your 30s, you have likely heard at least three of your married friends say, "I can't imagine dating in this climate," or "I'm so glad I don't have to date now, it is a nightmare". The overarching narrative about dating apps, matchmaking services and matrimonial websites has been one of a painful, losing battle.

All is not lost, Radhika emphasises. Whether through relationship coaching or community building, her goal is to help people meet and engage with each other calmly, with connection and celebration at the centre. Particularly as people get older, single individuals often encounter narratives that they are running out of time or options. "I want people to know that being single is only one part of your identity. At the same time, there is always hope. You have to go into the world with an abundance mindset," she says.

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MUSICANA

A journey into memories of old Bangalore through Karnatik-jazz

Jyotsna Srikanth's EP 'Bangalore Dreams' was first released in 2015.

Jyotsna Srikanth's 5-track EP 'Bangalore Dreams' was re-released on Friday, writes M S Rishabh Shankar

Karnatik violinist, Jyotsna Srikanth, just re-released her 2015 EP 'Bangalore Dreams'.

The five-track album is being re-launched under Tala Root Records, the new sub-label of Femme Music.

The Karnatik-jazz album was born out of Jyotsna's memories of old Bangalore when she was living in London. She realised that people were more familiar with Hindustani music, while Karnatik largely flew under the radar. She felt a strong need to make ragas reach the masses, she recalls.

The album features Jyotsna on violin, Shadrach Solomon on keys, and N Amruth on mridangam and khanjira.

Nostalgia is a strong theme. 'Haunting Thoughts' was created in memory of her mother as she dearly missed her and the house she lived in. And the song 'Temple Island' is inspired by the peaceful kalyani raga and her memories of kalyani or temple stepwell ponds.

Jyotsna has now teamed up with Vishak Ramprasad, a keyboard player and music composer, and Amoghavarsha, a Bengaluru-based drummer and percussionist. They will be part of the new Jyotsna Karnatik Jazz Trio.

The group will perform in Bengaluru on May 2 to mark the album's re-launch. While the western drums lend the music the jazz sound, Amoghavarsha will also play the morsing and the cajon, replacing the mridangam and khanjira.

Jyotsna grew up in a traditional South Indian family in Bengaluru. Her mother Rathna Srikantiah, a Karnatik vocalist, was her first guru. By age seven, she was playing and improvising on the violin.

She performed her first concert at the age of nine, and started undergoing formal training at age 10 under the legendary seven-stringed violinist R R Keshavamurthy. She then began playing for films and has worked with the likes of film composers Ilaiyaraaja and Hamsalekha.

A pathologist by education, she moved to London in 2004 along with her husband. Though initially reluctant, within a year she began receiving invites to perform and was soon touring across Europe.

Her goal is to find a larger audience for Karnatik-jazz fusion. The re-release of 'Bangalore Dreams' is one step in that direction, she points out.

The album is available on all streaming platforms.

Vikram's toughest lesson

Rachna Chhabria writes about a bully who learns the hard way that strength isn't everything

Vikram was the biggest bully of the fifth grade and also of his school. When he stared, younger children shivered. When he scowled, his classmates ran away in fear.

No one spoke against him. The class prefect didn't correct him for not following the line rule or for not sitting at his own desk. If Vikram wanted to borrow someone's pen or pencil, no one dared refuse him.

Teachers indulged him a lot, often ignoring his unruly behaviour. No teacher scolded him for messy homework, submitting assignments late, or even wearing unpolished shoes to school. The reason was that Vikram's father was the principal of the school.

The principal had decided that there would be yoga classes for all students. It was the fifth grade's first yoga class. The students walked into the storage room to pick up yoga mats.

"I saw it first," Vikram said, grabbing a yoga mat from Anuj's hands.

Anuj was the quietest boy in class. He watched open-mouthed as Vikram strolled out of the storage room, carrying the yoga mat which Anuj had carefully dusted.

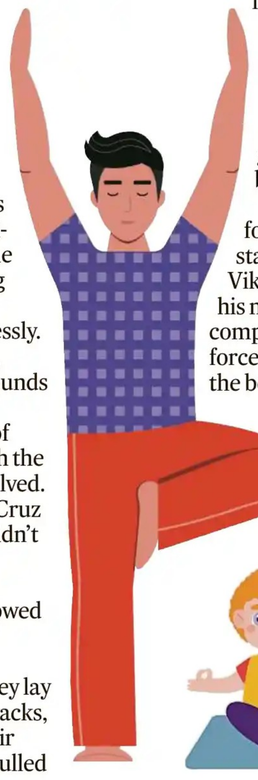
Students hauled their long mats to the sports ground, keeping a safe distance from Vikram, as no one wanted to be bullied by him.

Students sat in a cross-legged posture, known as the lotus posture. Sir D'Cruz, their physical instructor, demonstrated the first yoga asana. It was amazing how he twisted his body into a complicated posture so effortlessly. Most of the students struggled, making all kinds of groaning sounds as their muscles protested.

Vikram did his own version of yoga; his was the easy kind, with the least bit of effort involved.

Though Sir D'Cruz frowned, he didn't say a thing.

Most of the students followed Sir D'Cruz's instructions carefully. They lay on their backs, with their knees pulled towards their chests, their hands holding each ankle.



Vikram's grunts attracted amused looks from everyone. His legs were bent awkwardly, and his hands were twisted in a weird clasp beneath his legs instead of over them. Somehow, he had managed to turn the easy posture into a difficult one, getting himself entangled in an odd bind.

"That's such a wonderful posture for him," a boy named Atul grinned, staring at Vikram. In geometry class, Vikram had made Atul drill a hole in his notebook. The sharp point of the compass stabbed Atul's paper with the force of a dagger when Vikram pushed the boy's hand.

"I wish he remains like that forever; then he will bully no one," Arjun said. He was Atul's twin brother.

Vikram had deliberately jostled Arjun's elbow as he walked past him during biology class, ruining the boy's diagram.

"Oh no," Vikram whimpered in pain. "Help me, sir," he moaned, as the muscles in his never-exercised body ached from the awkward position he had forced it into. "Boys, help him," Sir D'Cruz said.

Trying valiantly to suppress their grins, Atul and Arjun untangled Vikram's limbs by separating his legs and hands from their complicated bind.

"Vikram, you must improve your fitness," Sir D'Cruz said, frowning, as Vikram rubbed his arms and legs, his face scrunched in discomfort.

Students sniggered as Vikram groaned in pain. Everyone knew he hated exercising. Vikram scowled at the students, instantly silencing them. Scared of his anger, most students pretended to cough and clear their throats. Unfortunately for the twins, Vikram saw their smirks.

"Better watch out for him," Gina warned the twins.

For the next few minutes, Vikram stared at them as though they were a piece of extra gooey chocolate cake. The twins' hands shook because when bullies stared at you, nasty plans bubbled in their devious minds.

"Now for the Suryanamaskar asana," Sir D'Cruz said. "I'll demonstrate the twelve steps. You all watch me, and then I'll lead you into each step."

All of a sudden, the entire school, including the teachers and the principal, strolled into the sports ground to watch the fifth grade do their first yoga session.

With grace and ease, Sir D'Cruz demonstrated the twelve steps, effortlessly moving from one to the other.

"Now do along with me," he said.

The class followed him, except Vikram. He was unable to do either the backward bend or the forward bend. His bullying tactics didn't work on yoga, nor did his body cooperate. It was as though each part of his body bullied him. He fell flat on the ground while trying to touch his toes.

Students stopped their yoga practice and watched Vikram as he was unable to do a single step of the Suryanamaskar.

"Now I want you all to sit in the lotus posture, also called Padma asana," Sir D'Cruz said. "Do the breathing exercises I taught you," he instructed.

Vikram's heart jumped into his mouth. "I can't..." A strict look from the principal silenced him.

Students watched as Vikram, with tears in his eyes, his leg muscles protesting, huffed and puffed, trying to sit cross-legged on the yoga mat. He realised that this was what the children he bullied must have felt: shame and embarrassment.

After this incident, Vikram was a changed person. He stopped grabbing things from others. The very next week, he even helped Anuj carry the yoga mats to the sports ground.

Embarrassing himself in front of the whole school had taught him an important lesson. It was as though yoga had straightened the bully in him.

Taking it as a challenge, Vikram also managed to master the Suryanamaskar asana, impressing his teacher and classmates.

4 ANIMATED MOVIES on siblings

April 10 was Siblings Day

Lilo & Stitch (2002)

Set against the backdrop of Hawaii, this film directed by Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois, quietly centres on two sisters trying to hold their world together after loss. Lilo is spirited and lonely, while Nani is thrust into the role of a caregiver before she is ready. Amid the chaos brought in by the extraterrestrial life-form Stitch, their bond is tested. The film's message, captured in the idea of "ohana", is that family isn't about perfection — it's about sticking together, especially when things get tough.

The Incredibles (2004)

While 'The Incredibles' is often remembered for its action and humour, its emotional core lies in the dynamics between siblings Violet and Dash. Initially marked by teasing and rivalry, their relationship evolves as they are forced to rely on each other in moments of danger. In learning to work as a team, they also learn to value each other's strengths. The film, directed by Brad Bird, subtly highlights how sibling relationships can mature through shared challenges.

Frozen (2013)

At the centre of this hit film, directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee, is a fractured relationship between two sisters. When Elsa's uncontrollable powers plunge Arendelle into winter, Anna sets out to bring her back, both literally and emotionally. The journey becomes one of reconciliation, as years of distance and fear give way to understanding. 'Frozen' stands out because it redefines "true love" as the bond between siblings, highlighting how emotional honesty and acceptance within families can be truly transformative.

Onward (2020)

In this modern fantasy, directed by Dan Scanlon, two brothers set out on a quest to reconnect with their late father, but what unfolds is a deeper understanding of each other. Ian, shy and uncertain, looks up to his confident older brother Barley, often overlooking the quiet ways in which Barley has already filled the role of a guide and protector. By the end, the film shifts the focus from what is missing to what has always been present, offering a moving reflection on the unseen depth of sibling bonds.

Celebrating April tides....

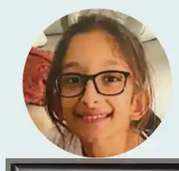
Open Sesame readers share their art

On March 28, *Open Sesame* asked its young readers to send in their artworks. Soon, we were flooded with entries from across the country. Many paintings were good, but we can only publish a few because of space constraints. Don't let that discourage you. Get creative and keep writing and painting, and stand a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition! Send your entries to: *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*

SHREYA VENKATASHARAN, 7
Bengaluru, Karnataka

RAGHAVENDRA S MADDARAKI, 7
Bengaluru, Karnataka

NIKHIL MURALIDHARAN, 6
Bengaluru, Karnataka



NADIA, 11
Bengaluru, Karnataka

SHRADDHA PRASAD M, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka

This Week:

Prestigious prizes

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 Born on April 10, 1847, Joseph Pulitzer established the prizes that bear his name. Which university, endowed with money through his will, has been annually awarding the Pulitzer Prizes since 1917?

Q2 Who is the only person so far to have received four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry, winning them in 1924, 1931, 1937 and 1943 for his volumes of verse?

Q3 In 1957, John F. Kennedy won a Pulitzer Prize for his book 'Profiles in Courage': brief biographies about eight brave and principled American senators. Who was Kennedy's ghostwriter?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: The 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction was won by Harper __.
Clue B: Stinging winged insect.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Who famously refused a Pulitzer Prize in 1926? Use these clues.
a) 'Arrowsmith'
b) Nobel Prize
c) Sauk Centre
d) Lewis Browne

WINNER'S NAMES: Anagha M (12), Bengaluru; Prabhupada (10), Bengaluru, Sharwanad (13), Bengaluru.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Abraham Lincoln, A2) S S Californian, A3) 'Our Power, Our Planet', A4) Reaper/Keeper, A5) First Battle of Panipat

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should kids choose their own bedtime?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Entries close on April 16. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'Happy memories' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Entries close on April 30. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to Punch the monkey

If you could have a conversation with Internet's favourite baby macaque Punch, what would you like to know about him, and what would you tell him about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on April 23.

Word of the Week

quandary

(noun)
— a state of not being able to decide what to do; a difficult situation

Usage
— Eliza found herself in a quandary when both job offers arrived.
— The committee faced a moral quandary over whether to prioritise profit or environmental responsibility.

The narratives have moved from 'end of the world' to 'we'll get through this', writes Taher Ahmed

Reality, now streaming in sci-fi

Gone are the days when science fiction went over our heads and had us racking our brains. What was once a niche genre has quietly taken centre stage, becoming one of the most dominant forces in entertainment.

And yet, this rise isn't only about scale or spectacle. It says something about the world we currently live in.

'Bigger', 'grander', 'visually stunning' — are some of the most common adjectives we use for movies like 'Avatar: The Way of Water' or 'Dune'. Fair enough, the visuals alone can justify the ticket price. But if box office numbers were the whole story, sci-fi wouldn't feel as relevant as it does today.

Beneath all the CGI and carefully crafted worlds, there's a quiet shift taking place.

Closer to home narratives

The genre has evolved with time. Earlier films like '2001: A Space Odyssey' (1968) captured a sense of wonder, an almost optimistic curiosity about space and technology. Then came movies like 'Blade Runner' (1982), where the questions became more uncomfortable. Progress was no longer just exciting; it was complicated.

Today's sci-fi feels noticeably closer to home, something even Steven Spielberg — who gave us 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial' and 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' — seems to acknowledge with 'Disclosure Day', suggesting that our fascination with the unknown hasn't faded, only grown closer to home.

Take 'Arrival'. While on paper, it's about aliens, one could say that it's about communication, time, and loss. Or 'Interstellar', which uses space travel to explore survival and environmental collapse. Even 'Everything Everywhere All at Once', for all its multiverse chaos, is really about family, identity, and the quiet messiness of everyday life. Turns out, saving the universe and saving a relationship aren't all that different — just tighter pockets.

Probing the present

Now this raises a simple question: Has sci-fi stopped imagining the future and started explaining the present?

Perhaps, part of the answer lies in what's happening around us. Technology is evolving faster than most of us can keep up with. Artificial intelligence, once a distant concept, now sits firmly in our hands, our workplaces, and even our conversations. Films like 'Ex Machina' (2014) or 'Her' (2014) no longer feel speculative — they feel like early warnings we politely ignored.

At the same time, climate concerns, shifting work cultures, and a general sense of unpredictability have made the future feel less distant and more immediate.

The industry, too, is leaning into this shift. Large-scale sci-fi remains one of the most reliable draws for studios. Streaming platforms are doubling down on the genre because it travels well, scales well, and, more importantly, keeps audiences invested. In a business that thrives on certainty, sci-fi has become the safest way to explore uncertainty. A bit ironic, but then again, so is most of the genre.

Optimistic ideas

What's equally interesting is how wide the genre has become. On one end, you have spectacle-driven films like 'Avatar: The Way of Water', which push visual storytelling to new extremes. On the other hand, there's a growing appetite for more grounded, idea-driven narratives. Stories like 'Project Hail Mary' focus on science, problem-solving, and a sense of optimism. It's a quieter kind of sci-fi; less about destruction, more about solutions. Less 'end of the world', more 'we'll get through this'.

This balance between scale and substance is perhaps what makes sci-fi so compelling today. It doesn't force audiences to choose between thinking and feeling; it manages to do both.

Navigating uncertainty

The genre also resonates more because the themes are no longer abstract. Resource scarcity, environmental collapse, questions around identity and control — these are not distant possibilities. Films like 'Dune' may build entire worlds around these ideas, but they don't feel entirely fictional. If anything, they feel like exaggerated versions of conversations we're already having.

Even the filmmaking process is beginning to mirror the stories told. Advances in visual effects, virtual production, and AI-assisted tools are reshaping how films are made. This creates an infinite loop — technology influencing storytelling, and storytelling, in turn, shaping how we think about technology. At some point, you begin to wonder: Is sci-fi just mirroring reality or prepping us for what's to come?

And yet, for all its ambition and scale, the reason sci-fi works right now is surprisingly simple — it helps us process uncertainty.

Reality can feel overwhelming. Sci-fi offers just enough distance to make sense of it. It allows us to explore big, uncomfortable questions, but without the pressure of immediate answers, offering us an escape pod.

So, is sci-fi booming because audiences want to escape reality? Or because they're trying to understand it? Perhaps, both. And that's also the point.

What is clear, however, is that science fiction has moved beyond being just entertainment. It has become a lens — one through which we examine the present while pretending to look at the future.

Sci-fi hasn't taken over because we want to escape reality. It has taken over because reality has started to look like science fiction.

And somewhere between the two, we are still trying to figure out which one is more believable.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

'Project Hail Mary' focuses on science, problem-solving, and a sense of optimism which is less about destruction, and more about solutions.

MOVIE REVIEWS

A look at the theatre of relationships

PRANATI A S

Robert Pattinson and Zendaya in the romance drama.

★★★☆☆

The Drama

English (Theatres)

Director: Kristoffer Borgli

Cast: Zendaya, Robert Pattinson, Alana Haim

Just a week before his wedding, Charlie (Robert Pattinson) learns of his fiancée Emma's (Zendaya) violent past. At a wine-and-food tasting session with their friends, they play a game: each must confess one of the worst things they have done.

We all know that one hypocritical, self-righteous and quietly vicious friend who thrives on other people's guilt. Here, it is Rachel who turns Emma's teenage confession into a spectacle, despite her own admission being far more horrifying.

Emma insists she never acted on her thoughts and was only guilty of having contemplated something terrible. But Rachel grabs onto her guilt to shame her while casting herself as the victim. What begins as a game of confession turns into a performance of morality. And 'The Drama' thus begins!

Succumbing to Rachel's 'drama', Charlie struggles to process Emma's revelation. Shock gives way to horror, and soon a profound crisis of trust corrodes their relationship even as he tries to gather himself together. Robert Pattinson embodies Charlie, delivering a moving performance. Zendaya brings restraint to Emma, a Black-American shaped by a troubled adolescence in a racist American society. Not once does her performance feel theatrical.

The cinematography, dominated by close-up shots that can sometimes feel claustrophobic, creates a sense of urgency, with the music heightening the tension — the wedding is just a week away.

Watching 'The Drama' immediately after watching 'Project Hail Mary' feels like a jarring return to reality, a reminder of just how ugly human relationships can be. Perhaps that's why Grace chose to die for Rocky rather than for any human!

By the end, the choreographer's observation about weddings being performative comes true. Only, it's not just weddings but life itself that is performative. All the world's a stage, said the bard, didn't he!

Playing the performance game

RASHMI VASUDEVA

Keanu Reeves and Jonah Hill.

★★★☆☆

Outcome

English (Apple TV+)

Director: Jonah Hill

Cast: Keanu Reeves, Jonah Hill, Cameron Diaz

Can our lives be both real and performative? Why not, asks Reef Hawk's sassy mother. The film nudges you to then wonder: where does the fakery begin, and where does accountability end?

The biggest zing in 'Outcome' is casting Keanu Reeves, the famously 'nice guy', as Reef Hawk (yes, really, that's his name), a Hollywood superstar battling inner demons while desperately clinging to his carefully curated persona. When a mysterious video clip threatens to bring down his house of cards, what does a 'nice guy' do? He embarks on an 'apology tour', as his longtime friend puts it — performing contrition while slyly trying to sniff out who among his circle is behind the leak.

'Outcome' works reasonably well as a satire, but it frequently strays into 'Eat, Pray, Love' territory; when it does, the narrative slows to a crawl. The idea of a megastar peeling back layers to confront regret isn't new; George Clooney explored similar terrain effectively in 'Jay Kelly' (2025). What Reeves brings, though, is a compelling contradiction: arrogance laced with a 'poor little lost boy' appeal, something viewers who have seen him in his non-Matrix movies would have observed.

The supporting cast is solid, particularly Jonah Hill as the lawyer, both inventing and solving crises in Reef's charmed life. While the film has its share of sharp, funny moments, the central blackmail thread fizzles out, giving way to a slower, more introspective study of what it really means to confront one's truest self. And that's not really such a bad thing, is it!

Lively couple, 'dead' pool

AMOGH RAVINDRA

Shanaya Kapoor and Adarsh Gourav in the film featuring a survival game.

★★☆☆☆

Tu Yaa Main

Hindi (Netflix)

Director: Bejoy Nambiar

Cast: Shanaya Kapoor, Adarsh Gourav, Amruta Khanvilkar

Bejoy Nambiar has always had a taste for the unusual. His films tend to flirt with style, mood, and music in ways that feel fresh, even when the storytelling occasionally stumbles. Lately though, that spark has dimmed a bit. So when he takes on a remake of a 2018 Thai survival thriller 'The Pool', the question is simple. Can he still pull it off?

'Tu Yaa Main' introduces us to Maruti and Avani, two content creators from wildly different ends of Mumbai's social spectrum. They meet at an event, graduate to DMs, and before long they are the internet's newest couple goals. Naturally, reality intervenes. Seeking a breather from the chaos, they head out for a getaway that goes spectacularly wrong. They end up stuck inside an empty hotel swimming pool, where emotional baggage surfaces faster than rescue plans. And just to keep things lively, there is a rather hungry crocodile circling the situation.

Adarsh Gourav and Shanaya Kapoor make a compelling pair, bringing honesty and subtle emotion to their roles. Their chemistry keeps things engaging even when the film slows down. The first half feels a bit unsure and drags at times, but the second half picks up with more tension and focus. Remy Dalai's cinematography lifts the confined setting, while Nambiar's knack for music still shows and enhances the mood.

All said and done, 'Tu Yaa Main' is not Nambiar at his sharpest, but it is a more engaging effort than his recent films. Flaws and all, it makes for a decent OTT watch with a mix of drama and danger.

Uninspiring tale of chande performers

JAGADISH ANGADI

Raajesh Dhruva plays Peter.

★☆☆☆☆

Peter

Kannada (Theatres)

Director: Sukesh Shetty

Cast: Raajesh Dhruva, Dr Janvi Rayala, Raviksha Shetty, Raam Nadagoud, Prathima Nayak

Director Sukesh Shetty centres his narrative on chande, a wooden percussion instrument traditionally played during temple rituals. Set against this vibrant cultural practice in Kasaragod and Madikeri, the story traces the life of Peter, a young man from a humble family.

A group of youngsters practice chande at the local Krishna temple. Soon, internal differences lead to a split, forming two rival teams — one of which is led by Peter. Tensions between the groups escalate. On the day of the ritual, a member of the opposing team is found dead. The blame soon falls on Peter, setting the stage for the conflict that follows.

Peter's life, until then, revolved around his close friend Shambhu and his girlfriend Meera. Now, with a murder allegation, the situation forces him to flee the village.

A year later, he returns. He must confront the circumstances he once ran away from. What happened to Shambhu and Meera in his absence? And what became of his chande team?

There are five deaths which unfold across several subplots — a tender love story, an intense account of revenge, and a heart-wrenching motherson relationship.

The narrative, which soon turns predictable, is briefly elevated through Ritvik Muralidhar's music. The cinematography is nothing to boast about. Prathima Nayak stands out for her performance as an elderly woman grappling with a psychological disorder. Dhruva, Dr Janvi Rayala, and Raviksha Shetty are convincing.

In the end, the film does not fully explore the chande ritual, the very theme it's based on.

As action films lose steam, Hindi cinema may be reviving its most reliable crowd-puller, writes Pranati A S

Dil se, again, for Bollywood?

Imtiaz Ali's 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' is a love story set during the Partition.

Is Bollywood experiencing a resurgence in romantic dramas? Some of the more interesting films lined up are emotional love stories and musical dramas like 'Ek Din', 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', 'Chand Mera Dil', and 'Love & War'. Equally notable is the return of sequels to hit romances from over a decade ago — 'Cocktail 2', 'Aashiqui 3', and 'Awarapan 2'.

The Hindi film industry, long synonymous with romance, saw a sharp tilt towards high-octane action dramas after the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic also tweaked viewing patterns, with the OTT boom taking over romance and smaller films. Theatres rooted for spectacles that could be marketed as "must-watch on the big screen". This gave rise to films like 'Pathaan', 'Jawan', 'Gadar 2', 'Tiger 3', and 'Animal' — all released in 2023. Notably, these projects had likely been in production for some time and were perhaps conceptualised in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic.

But soon we saw a dip in the success rate of action dramas. The illusion that any action will work was shattered — with movies like 'War 2', 'Sikandar', 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan', 'Sky Force', 'Deva', and 'Fighter', underperforming significantly.

When action narratives increasingly feel formulaic and lack novelty, audiences predictably itch to return to genres that consistently resonate: romance and horror. These genres do not necessarily demand massive budgets or bankable star pairings; ultimately, it is the story that drives success. This partly explains the performance of films like 'Saiyaara' and 'Stree 2'.

Romance, in particular, appears to be a safer bet in today's unpredictable box office climate. With a spate of promising love stories on the horizon, the question arises: are we heading back to Bollywood's glory days?

The films lined up appear to be rooted in deeply emotional worlds. Imtiaz Ali's 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', for example, is a love story set against the backdrop of the Partition. The film aims to draw on themes like separation and memory. And Imtiaz has never failed to move us with his love stories, especially those that were heavy on longing and desire — 'Tamasha', 'Love Aaj Kal', 'Rockstar' and 'Laila Majnu', which, incidentally, found love when it was re-released last year.

Among the many movies released during the pandemic, 'Gehraiyaan' stood out for its exploration of modern urban relationships. 'Cocktail 2', with a bold love triangle, appears to return to similar terrain — emotional fragility and moral ambiguity.

'Chand Mera Dil' and 'Ek Din' seem poised to offer lighter, more breezy viewing experiences. Meanwhile, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love & War' could emerge as the showpiece — a signature musical romance, provided Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor have worked on their on-screen chemistry.

'Awarapan 2' aims to bring back Emraan Hashmi in his trademark romantic form. One can only hope it retains the emotional intensity and memorable music that defined the 2007 original.

In times of uncertainty, love stories offer a sense of hope. They allow audiences to sit in a dark room and process vulnerability, longing, loss, and the possibility of connection. For years, Bollywood has excelled at evoking these emotions.

However, as Jayant Kaikini writes in 'Touring Talkies', cinema is a wonderful medium of exaggeration because, at the end of the day, cinema offers escape from the monotony of daily life. He writes, 'And love in cinema, essentially, thrives on that exaggeration. But if this exaggeration does not resonate with the pulse of the story, it will all go sour like spoilt milk'.

Ishq is everything?

RASHMI VASUDEVA

SONG STORIES

'I expect nothing; I fear nothing; I am free.' The epitaph of Nikos Kazantzakis is not something you would immediately associate with 'Na to caravan ki talash hai' from 'Barsaat Ki Raat' (1960), especially not the beat-heavy Sonu Nigam rendition in 'Dhurandhar'. Yet, when Sahir Ludhianvi writes of desiring nothing but love, not even a 'humsafar', he is referencing the sort of stoicism that's entirely alien to the revenge-fuelled world of 'Dhurandhar', which reframes the 1956 qawwali as an angsty war cry.

Sahir's defiance lies not just in rejecting worldly 'pyaar' for a higher consciousness of 'ishq', but also in the syncretism he blends into his poetry — something that feels increasingly distant today. Mohammed Rafi invokes Radha as easily as he does Janak ki dulaari (Sita), before calling love "Allah rasool ka farmaan". The song peaks with the striking assertion: "bande ko khuda karta hai ishq" (love elevates the human to the divine).

Studio lore has it that Rafi recorded the song across multiple sessions to preserve its vitality. Roshan crafted a composition that blends classical influences with sweeping cinematic scale. Yet, once recording was complete, he is said to have gone home anxious, fearing he had made a grave mistake by committing to an almost 11-minute qawwali. Filming stretched across days, as the makers sought an authentic "live" energy.

'Dhurandhar' may have returned the song to drawing-room conversations, but this is a qawwali that never truly left. After all, it expected nothing and feared nothing. It was, thus, born free.

Song Stories is a monthly column that takes up an iconic number and explores why it still lives rent-free in our heads.

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> If you see the history, the winners of IPL build up in the middle and back end of the tournament. It's not easy when you don't start well, but our destiny is still in our hands. We still have 10 games left.
>
> **ROVMAN POWELL, KKR BATTER**

Soorayvanshi blitz sinks RCB

Jurel hits unbeaten 81 as Rajasthan Royals coast to 6-wicket win

GUWAHATI, PTI

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi proved one can better the best by playing another astonishing innings -- a 26-ball 78 with seven sixes -- to set up an easy six-wicket victory for Rajasthan Royals against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL here on Friday.

While most 15-year-olds across the country were sweating over their 10th board exams results, this teenager from Bihar's Samastipur spent the evening hitting a 15-ball fifty as a victory target of 202 was achieved by Royals in just 18 overs.

Dhruv Jurel (81 not out off 43 balls), enjoying his best IPL season with the willow, played a number of graceful shots but when Sooryavanshi is on song, everyone else is compelled to become a bridesmaid or a bystander, getting a first-hand dosage of what brilliance looks like.

While Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (left) hammered a 26-ball 78, Dhruv Jurel smashed a 43-ball 81 not out to help Rajasthan Royals chase down the target successfully over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a rain-affected game in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Phil Salt c Jurel b Archer 0, Virat Kohli b Bishnoi 32, Devdutt Padikkal c Hetmyer b Archer 14, Rajat Patidar c Ferreira b Sharma 63, Krunal Pandya c Hetmyer b Bishnoi 1, Jitesh Sharma lbw b Brijesh 5, Tim David c Hetmyer b Sharma 13, Romario Shepherd c Brijesh b Jadeja 22, Venkatesh Iyer (not out) 29, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 9. Extras: (B-4, LB-2, W-7) 13. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 201.**

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-45, 3-58, 4-62, 5-76, 6-94, 7-125, 8-166.

Bowling: Jofra Archer 3-0-33-2, Nandre Burger 3-0-32-0, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-47-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-32-2, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-14-1, Brijesh Sharma 4-0-37-2.

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Jitesh b Hazlewood 13, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Kohli b Krunal 78, Dhruv Jurel (not out) 81, Shimron Hetmyer c Hazlewood b Krunal 0, Riyan Parag c Krunal b Hazlewood 3, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 24. Extras: (LB-1, W-2) 3. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 18 overs) 202.**

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-129, 3-129, 4-134.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-37-0, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-44-2, Abhinandan Singh 3-0-54-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-30-2, Tim David 1-0-18-0, Romario Shepherd 2-0-18-0.

Result: RR won by 6 wkts. **PoM:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. **RCB's next match:** vs MI (Mumbai, April 12).

Sooryavanshi continued to put the reputation of world famous international bowlers at stake with his amazing bat speed and timing. The chubby cheeked teenager had toyed with Jasprit Bumrah's ego in an earlier game and Friday was comeback man Jos Hazlewood's turn to get butchered.

Hazlewood, a red ball doyen, bowled a perfect delivery close to his body cramping Sooryavanshi for room. To his horror, he found the young boy just heavily chopping the delivery for a boundary.

The next two deliveries were boundaries over mid-on and then he fetched the Aussie's pace off delivery from outside the off-stump to dispatch into the square leg stands.

The best shot however was a snap hit -- where he just whipped a yorker length delivery from seamer Abhinandan Singh into the gallery -- just a bit wide of long-on.

Every shot that he hit left the crowd yearning for more. Who could have possibly imagined that he took only 15 balls to score 74 of his 78 runs in fours (8) and sixes (7).

A wily bowler like Bhuvneshwar Kumar was treated with utter disdain as he added a staggering 108 runs for the second wicket in just 6.1 overs with Jurel. Even Jurel feasted on below-par Abhinandan, who had gone for 24 in one of his overs.

Critics are always sceptical about "second season blues" when it comes to newcomers but Sooryavanshi, just like his cricketing philosophy, is out there to change the popular perceptions.

Consistent PBKS meet faltering SRH

MULLANPUR, PTI

LIVE @ 3:30 PM

A plucky Punjab Kings will back themselves against a star-studded yet inconsistent Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

Considering how they have started the season, PBKS must be disappointed about sharing a point with KKR in their last game due to rain.

Led by Shreyas Iyer **(in pic)**, PBKS have come to symbolise what a winning unit should look like, whether it is chasing down a 200-plus total with ease against Chennai Super Kings in a sea of yellow or overcoming former champions Gujarat Titans on a tricky Mullanpur surface.

They could have been on course for a third successive win against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens with Australian quick Xavier Bartlett wreaking havoc before heavy rain and a thunderstorm forced them to share a point with the hosts.

As opener-keeper Prabhsimran Singh, fresh off a 500-plus run breakout season, put it, PBKS are focused on collective success over Orange or Purple Cap pursuits, a mindset reflected in Cooper Connolly's unbeaten 72 against Gujarat Titans and Vijaykumar Vyshak's growing impact with the ball.

However the same cannot be said about Sunrisers Hyderabad who despite their reputation for explosive batting and big totals have faltered this season largely due to top-order collapses as seen against RCB and LSG when the dangerous opening pair of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma fell cheaply.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	4	4	0	0	8	2.055
Punjab Kings	3	2	0	1	5	0.637
Royal Challengers	3	2	1	0	4	1.231
Delhi Capitals	3	2	1	0	4	0.811
Lucknow Super Giants	3	2	1	0	4	-0.359
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	0.275
Gujarat Titans	3	1	2	0	2	-0.270
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	-0.715
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	0	3	1	1	-1.315
Chennai Super Kings	3	0	3	0	0	-2.517

Thushara takes U-turn, says sorry to SLC

COLOMBO, PTI : In a stunning climb-down, Sri Lankan pacer Nuwan Thushara, who had taken his cricket board to court for denying him a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for IPL participation, has now extended an apology to the governing body and is considering withdrawing his case.

Sri Lanka Cricket sources said that Thushara had apologised in an e-mail to SLC, saying it was not his intention to "cause inconvenience to the governing body".

Nuwan Thushara

He was "seeking fairness and justice", as he felt he had been treated unfairly.

The backdown came as the SLC Thursday told the District Court here that objections will be filed on Thushara's application for court intervention to enable his participation in the 2026 IPL. The 31-year-old had filed a case seeking an order directing Sri Lanka Cricket to issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC). the SLC had declined his request, citing failed fitness tests.

The court allowed the SLC plea and the next hearing was set for April 23.

Thushara has 30 T20 international appearances to his credit since 2022. He was to appear for the Royal Challengers Bangalore this season having previously played in 2024 and 2025.

LSG's Mukul Choudhary showed what an exciting young talent he is with a match-winning 54 not out off 27 balls against KKR on Thursday. PTI

Dhoni fan Mukul delivers like he had envisioned

KOLKATA, PTI

Mukul Choudhary grew up watching MS Dhoni finish games, dreaming of doing the same one day.

At Eden Gardens on Thursday night, the 21-year-old rookie batter from Rajasthan turned that dream into reality with a stunning six-hitting display, helping Lucknow Super Giants secure a three-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in a last-ball thriller.

"I dedicate this to my father. Even before he got married, he always dreamt of making his son a cricketer. I also always watch MS (Dhoni) sir, the way he finishes. I also play at the same number, so I dedicate this to him," Mukul said after his heroics (54 not out from 27 balls; 2x4, 7x6).

Behind that composure lies relentless preparation of hitting close to 150 sixes everyday.

"My genes are such and I am naturally built in a way that there is power in my shots, and also I do practice a lot. Everyday I hit around 100-150 sixes. For the last five-six months, I've been practising a lot and that has come into me," he revealed.

He also spoke about his Dhoni-like 'helicopter shot', which he used to hit Vaibhav Arora for a six in the 17th over.

"I have practised that shot since childhood... I always liked that, and the way Dhoni finished (an innings). He used to hit a six even off a yorker. If you even hit that kind of a delivery for six, the bowler thinks about doing something different."

That six-hitting ability, combined with belief, has already caught the eye of LSG coach Justin Langer who had famously earlier said he could turn Mukul into one of India's "scariest" middle-order batters.

It was on display against a depleted Knight Riders bowling attack on Thursday, when he turned the match around, taking the score from 128/7 in 16 overs to 54 runs off the last four overs.

"If such a great coach says something about you, he must have seen something in you. He showed me his belief and I wanted to do it," continued Mukul.

"He made me practice as well. He made me work with him for 10-15 minutes every day. He made me understand everything and that is my job. I did my job and he showed me his trust."

Pressure mounting on CSK

CHENNAI, PTI

The seasoned opening duo of Sanju Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad will be under immense pressure to perform as Chennai Super Kings extend search for their first win of the season against Delhi Capitals in the IPL here on Saturday.

With three losses at three different venues, CSK have begun the season on an uninspiring note. Whether in batting or bowling, significant improvement is needed if they are to compete with rival teams.

The absence of Dewald Brevis has also impacted the balance of the side. The explosive South African batter is expected to make a comeback from injury against Delhi Capitals. However, there is no clarity over the return of MS Dhoni, who is yet to play this season due to a calf strain.

Under-fire CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad needs to score big to rejuvenate his battered side when they take on DC on Saturday. AFP FILE PHOTO

LIVE @ 7:30 PM

The opening combination of Samson and Gaikwad needs to come good before things go out of reach for CSK.

Kartik Sharma too needs to step up in the middle while Prashant Veer has done well in the lower order. The only batter who has shown consistency is Sarfaraz Khan, who has a point to prove this season.

The CSK bowlers leaked 250 runs against RCB, a total that proved too steep for the batters. Barring Khaleel Ahmed, all the bowlers leaked 12 runs or more per over.

It will be the second game of the season at Chepauk. PBKS had chased 210 comfortably against the hosts on April 3.

CSK take on Capitals, who would be hurting from their one-run loss against Gujarat Titans in Delhi. The Axar Patel-led side knows the importance of momentum and would be determined to compound CSK's woes with an all-round performance.

HI names White as Jr coach

NEW DELHI, PTI: Experienced Australian Tim White was on Friday named the head coach of India's junior women's hockey team by the national federation, replacing Tushar Khandekar who was with the team since 2023.

Hockey India did not specify the reasons for the change and also did not divulge the duration of White's contract.

White recently served as the head coach of the Accord Tamil Nadu Dragons in the Hockey India League (HIL) in January this year. His coaching career includes stints in Belgium and Australia.

Eliminator for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

Rajinder-trained Eliminator, to be Be ridden by Lave Kumar, is fancied to win the Stewards Cup Div I, the feature event of the races on Saturday. The first race starts at 2:45 pm.

1. The Samrat Plate - 1000M: Juggaad 1; Gamati 2; Ashwa Jubilee 3.
2. The Raj Tilak Plate - 1600M: Ashwa Changez 1; Shahzada 2; Dubai Falcon 3.
3. The Rajsi Vaibhav Plate - 1400M: Lady Danger 1; Cletus 2; Black Rainstorm 3.
4. The Stewards Cup (Div I) -1000M: Eliminator 1; Hukamori 2; Ashwa Kohima 3.
5. The Stewards Cup (Div II) -1000M: Ashwa Simran 1; Galway Bay 2; Golden Sun 3.
6. The Shahi Darbar Plate - 1100M: First Class 1; Rocket Rod 2; Nairobi 3.
Day's best: Juggaad; **Jackpot**: 2,3,4,5 & 6; **Treble**: 4,5,6.

Ayush soars into semis

NINGBO, PTI

India's Ayush Shetty produced the biggest win of his career, stunning world No. 4 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia to enter the men's singles semifinals of the Badminton Asia Championships here on Friday.

The world No. 25 Indian kept his higher-ranked opponent under constant pressure with relentless retrieving and thunderous smashes to script a 23-21, 21-17 victory in a fiercely contested quarterfinal.

Shetty, the reigning US Open Super 300 champion, will next face top seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand, the Paris Olympic silver medallist and 2023 world champion.

In their first meeting, Shetty appeared tactically prepared with coach Irwansyah Adi Pratama, who had earlier guided Christie in his corner.

The Indian matched his opponent shot for shot, unsettling him with sharp angles and disciplined defence.

India's Ayush Shetty stunned world No. 4 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Shetty led 2-0 and 5-3 early on before Christie wrested control, pinning him to the backline and engaging in flat exchanges to turn it around at 6-5.

The Indonesian continued to vary pace and angles, putting pressure on the tall Indian to move ahead 9-6 and carry a three-point lead into the interval.

The 6ft 4 inch Mangalorean responded well, quickly erasing the deficit. However, a string of unforced errors saw Christie surge ahead again at 14-11 and 16-13. Shetty then forced errors from his opponent to pocket the opening game and then the second.

Youth paddlers continue to dominate

SHIMLA, PTI: India's young paddlers extended their dominant run, storming into the singles quarterfinals in both U-19 and U-15 categories at the Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships after a golden sweep in team events.

In the Under-19 boys category, Priyanuj Bhattacharjee and Punit Biswas topped their respective groups in commanding fashion. Bhattacharjee was flawless throughout, while Biswas, after conceding a lone game to Sri Lanka's Akain Viyanduwa, quickly reasserted control with a clinical 3-0 victory over Nepal's Erish Shakya.

The Indian girls were no less dominant. Jennifer Varghese and Ananya Muralidharan cruised through the Under-19 girls' group without dropping a single game.

Vaishali looks to consolidate her lead

PAPHOS (CYPRUS), PTI: With R Praggnanandhaa out of contention, focus has shifted to his sister R Vaishali **(in pic)** , who enters Round 11 of the Women's Candidates tournament as the sole leader, boosting her chances of sealing the title when play resumes on Saturday after the rest day.

Vaishali, on six points, faces Russia's Aleksandra Goryachkina in the next round, aiming to extend her lead and strengthen her bid for the title, which would earn her a shot at reigning world champion Ju Wenjun later this year.

With four rounds remaining, Vaishali has been the standout among the three Indian players, ahead of her younger brother Praggnanandhaa, who is competing in the Open section, and Divya Deshmukh.

She holds a half-point lead over Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk and China's Zhu Jiner. The trio of Kateryna Lagno, Aleksandra Goryachkina and Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva are tied for fourth on five points, while Divya Deshmukh is another half-point behind. Former women's world champion Tan Zhongyi sits in last place with 3.5 points.

Vaishali has been in the spotlight for her bold, attacking play, with three wins and just one loss so far. The Indian has shown strong intent, balancing ambition with calculated risk-taking.

After her clash with Goryachkina, she still has games against two Chinese players and Kateryna.

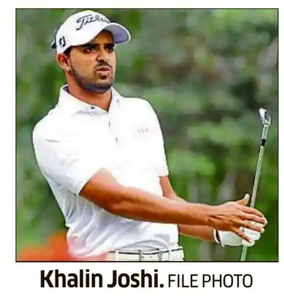
Meenakshi bags silver

BISHKEK, PTI: Meenakshi Goyat added a third silver to India's tally in the women's 53kg category, while three men's freestyle wrestlers advanced to the gold medal bouts in their respective weight classes at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships here on Friday.

Khalin clinches title

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI: Khalin Joshi fired a two-under 69 to win the Rs 1 crore Andhra Open Golf Championship on Friday, sealing his seventh professional title in dominant fashion here on Friday.

The 33-year-old Bengaluru pro returned rounds of 68-68-70-69 to finish at nine-under 275, four shots clear of the field. The victory earned him Rs 15 lakh and propelled him sharply up the 2026 DP World PGTI Order of Merit.



Khalin Joshi. FILE PHOTO

Rory McIlroy. AFP

McIlroy makes a Rorying start to his title defence at Augusta

AUGUSTA, AFP: Rory McIlroy reeled off three consecutive back-nine birdies to fire a five-under par 67 and seize a share of the lead in Thursday's opening round of the 90th Masters with top-ranked Scottie Scheffler three adrift.

World No. 2 McIlroy, trying to become only the fourth golfer to win back-to-back Masters titles, curled in a 29-foot birdie putt at the par-five 15th as he matched Sam Burns atop the leaderboard at Augusta National.

"It's a great start. I'm right into the tournament," McIlroy said. "Great start but I can't get ahead of myself. There's a long way to go, but I'm happy with where I'm at."

The five-time major champion from Northern Ireland pitched to three feet and tapped in for birdie at the par-five second hole but left a nine-foot par putt hanging on the edge to bogey the third.

McIlroy answered with a tap-in birdie at the eighth after reaching the green in two then made an eight-foot birdie putt at the ninth.

McIlroy charged to the top with a 14-foot birdie putt at the par-five 13th, a seven-foot birdie putt at the par-four 14th and his impressive putt at 15.

He found a fairway bunker off the 18th tee but landed his approach 41 feet from the hole and two-putted.

Leading scores (after 18 holes): 67: Sam Burns (US), Rory McIlroy (Nir); **69:** Patrick Reed (US), Kurt Kitayama (US), Jason Day (Aus); **70:** Shane Lowry (Irl), Scottie Scheffler (US), Xander Schauffele (US), Justin Rose (Eng); **71:** Tommy Fleetwood (Eng), Aaron Rai (Eng), Gary Woodland (US), Brian Campbell (US), Jacob Bridgeman (US), Nick Taylor (Can), Li Haotong (Chn).

IN BRIEF

Semis line-up complete

▸ Shanthinagar and Rajajinagar scored contrasting victories in their respective quarterfinal clashes to advance to the semifinal of the 2nd Chief Minister's Cup at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Friday, reports DHNS.

While Shanthinagar blanked Shivajinagar 6-0, Rajajinagar secured a win against Sarvagnanagar via penalty shootout after both the teams ended regulation time tied at 2-2.

Rajajinagar will be up against RR Nagar while Shanthinagar will face KR Puram in the last-four encounter on April 13.

Results: Quarterfinals: Shanthinagar: 6 (Magesh S 53rd, Roshan Singh 70th, G John Peter 80th, J Darshan 83rd, Sanjay S 85th, Shelton Paul D 87th) bt Shivajinagar: 0; Rajajinagar: 2 (5) (Kavi Arasan 16th, Deepan A 24th) bt Sarvagnanagar: 2 (4) (Sunil Kumar M 4th, Praveen Amith 76th) via penalty shootout.

Sonam hat-trick in Parikrma win

▸ Sonam Dutta scored a hat-trick to power Parikrma FC to a commanding 6-1 win over Technico in the KSFA women's A Division & B Division League Championships at the BFS on Friday.

Results (A Division League): Parikrma FC: 6 (Arti Munda 12th, 64th; Sonam Dutta 28th, 33rd, 38th; Rivka Smiti Aarons 59th) bt Technico 1 (Nishitha Ballyatanda 16th); SRFC: 4 (Purva Bhosale 26th, 65th; Alisha Borges 40th (P), Sakshi Ganesh Chitagi 44th) bt Pass FC Sparks: 1 (Andrea Elizabeth 70+1st).

B Division League: Technico: 2 (Tanu Chauhan 17th, Shrushti Prabhakar Gowda 34th) bt Blues FA: 1 (Mohitha A 50th); Kemp Junior FC: 1 (Myrra Gupta 1st) bt Hawks United SA: 0.

J'khand hold Karnataka

▸ Alisha Munda's goal in the 50+2nd minute helped Jharkhand hold Karnataka to a 2-2 draw in the under-13 Asmita National Football League in Punjab, reports DHNS.

Results: Jharkhand: 2 (Shivani K 27th, Alisha Munda 50+2nd) drew with Karnataka: 2 (Subhathra 13th, Rukshana 28th).

Aadhya stars in Rajmahal BC victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aadhya's 33-point effort was the cynosure of Rajmahal BC's narrow 72-67 win over JSC in the 2nd State Women's Basketball league championship at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results (upper pool super league): Rajmahal BC: 72 (Aadhya 33, Shreya 17) bt JSC: 67 (Aadhya 27, Sanjana 25). HT: 33-39; Beagles BC: 71 (Aadhya 15, Swathi 14) bt Appaiah BC: 55 (Moulya 14, Aarushi 14). HT: 33-19; Vivek's SC: 52 (Pavithra 19, Hamsa 12) bt Vimanapura SC: 47 (Shreya 16, Shwetha 13). HT: 23-26; DYES Vidyanagar: 47 (Deepika 22, Nireeksha 11) bt Mounts Club: 32 (Pallavi 13). HT: 27-22; Mysore District A: 82 (Sanika 27, Kusuma 16) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 64 (Tisha 22, Prashitha 15). HT: 39-26; Young Orions: 51 (Bindu 14, Abha 11) bt Rajmahal BC: 28 (Aadya 22). HT: 32-20; Mysuru Dist A: 71 (Kusuma 24, Sanika 12) bt Vimanapura: 38 (Shreya 13). HT: 42-23; Beagles BC: 52 (Chandana 16, Sanjana 14) bt JSC: 48 (Adhya 24, Sanjana 11). HT: 25-22; Viveks SC: 58 (Jayashree 20) bt Mounts BC: 52 (Pallavi 21, Ananya 10). HT: 33-23; DYES Vidyanagar: 77 (Deepika 21, Nireeksha 22) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 64 (Prashitha 30, Tisha 13). HT: 42-31.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: PBKS vs SRH **(3:30 pm)**, CSK vs DC **(7:30)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Arsenal vs Bournemouth **(5:00 pm)**, Brentford vs Everton **(7:30 pm)**, Liverpool vs Fulham **(10:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Real Sociedad vs Deportivo Alaves **(5:30 pm)**, Elche vs Valencia **(7:45 pm)**, Barcelona vs Espanyol **(10:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: Chennaiyin FC vs East Bengal FC **(5:00 pm)**, Bengaluru FC vs Kerala Blasters FC **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, FanCode.**

GOLF

Augusta Masters: Round 3 **(10:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Monte Carlo Masters: Semifinals **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL ISL

More Barca flavour for BFC

Spaniard begins stint with clash against Kerala Blasters

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tiki-taka is hardly a new phrase. Mention FC Barcelona's style of play and it almost instinctively comes to mind with the crisp 'tik' of a pass and the assured 'tak' of its reception -- a rhythm fans have come to associate with the club over the years.

But the idea runs deeper than just its catchy cadence. At its core, tiki-taka is about control; long spells of possession, drawing opponents out of shape, and patiently waiting for the right opening and was championed by famed coach Pep Guardiola.

Bengaluru FC management, in particular, seems to have affinity for such brand of football as their new head coach Pep Munoz becomes the third FC Barcelona academy or La Masia joinee after Albert Roca and Carles Cuadrat.

The club's love for the style seems too apparent as they risked doing so in the middle of the season, where previous coach Renedy Singh did a fine job by keeping BFC in run for the title.

"So I came from Barca's La Masia, I like to control the game," said Munoz in his Catalan-accented English during his inaugural press conference here on Friday.

"It's the only way that I understand that we can be closer to win. We want to have the ball possession because I want to win, I want to compete."

Munoz's arrival, delayed by a week, comes at a time when the club enters the most competitive phase of the league with some of the tough fixtures awaitng them and he gets just four days of training to prepare for it.

What he may like to bank upon the fact is his front three, unless he decides to change them, are firing goals.

All of Sunil Chhetri, Ashique Kuruniyan, Ryan Williams (two goals each in all competitions) have made most of the chances created while their Argentinian attacking midfielder Braian Sanchez (3 goals in ISL this season) eased up pressure on them.

In fact, it will be unwise to tinker with the winning combination as the likes of Lalremtluanga Fanai, Uzbek Sirozhiddin Kuziev have seamlessly fit into crucial positions in midfield.

BFC are also expected to grab nothing less than three points in their upcoming match against Kerala Blasters.

Not just because of the fierce fan rivalry between the two southern clubs but also because relegation-threatened KBFC appear to be an easy prey at the moment with six losses and a draw to their name.

After misfiring the first half of the season to a point of angering the devoted fanbase, the visitors are hoping that their new manager Ashley Westwood will put all his familiarity with BFC into good use after all the I-League success he oversaw more than a decade ago.

Bengaluru FC's star player Sunil Chhetri (left) and the newly-appointed head coach Pep Munoz during a news conference, ahead of their ISL game against Kerala Blasters FC in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Chhetri doffs his hat to coach Renedy

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru FC found themselves in a precarious situation where they took the tough call of managerial change keeping their long-term vision in mind for a foreign coach in Pep Munoz.

In the process, they let go of Indian coach Renedy Singh, who did a commendable job keeping the club in race for the Indian Super League title. And as the club prepares to take the field on Saturday against Kerala Blasters, BFC captain and stalwart Sunil Chhetri gave the credit where its due.

"I think when coach Gerrard (Zaragoza) left (last year), it was a very sudden decision.

Renedy Singh. BFC

Left us all in shock while the league was in turmoil. For him (Renedy) to step up and do what he did... he had the respect from us," said Chhetri during a press conference here on Friday.

"He's also been told by us. Everyone in the club, we really are happy to be where we are. And we all acknowledge what he has done for the last seven games."

The 41-year-old former India captain also welcomed the arrival of new coach with open arms, saying that the Spanish gaffer brings fresh ideas at a club that is adaptive.

"As a player, when you enter the locker room (with new coach), you suddenly expect a new idea. I think I, personally, I'm always intrigued. The best thing is, when he came, it's been four days but he just eased himself in. He's giving us exactly what is needed for the next game," Chhetri said.

Giving further clarity on his stint at BFC, the forward said he will stay here untill the clubs want him to.

Boxers sign off on a glorious note

Vishvanath beats Daichi to win 50 kg gold

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA), PTI

Vishvanath Suresh. X

India capped off a memorable Asian Boxing Championships campaign with Vishvanath Suresh clinching the gold in the men's 50kg category here on Friday.

Vishvanath defeated Japan's Daichi Iwai by a dominant 5-0 margin in the final.

Sachin (60kg) added to the tally with a hard-fought silver medal, rounding off a strong showing for the men's contingent.

India finished second on the table with five gold, one fewer than Kazakhstan, but claimed the most medals (16) overall.

The performance was headlined by a historic outing from the Indian women's team, which topped the medal charts with 10 podium finishes, including four gold, two silver and four bronze, marking one of their finest showings at the continental level.

Vishvanath's gold marks a significant milestone in his rapid rise through the ranks. Having emerged through the national circuit with consistent performances, he has quickly established himself on the international stage.

His campaign in Ulaanbaatar was particularly impressive, highlighted by his victory over a world number one en route to the final, underlining his temperament and ability to deliver against top opposition.

Speaking on the team's performance, Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh said, "This has been a remarkable campaign for Indian boxing and for our women who have topped the medal charts with four gold medals. Our men's team was impressive again, especially young Vishva with his gold, whose performance shows the strength of our pipeline."

Among the standout performers in women's team, Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Priya Ghanghas (60kg), and Arundhati Chaudhary (70kg) delivered gold medal-winning performances, showcasing dominance across categories.

Brilliant Watkins steers Villa past Bologna; Forest held

BOLOGNA (ITALY), AFP: Ollie Watkins **(in pic)** scored twice as Aston Villa beat Bologna 3-1 in their Europa League quarterfinal, first leg on Thursday, while Nottingham Forest held Porto 1-1 thanks to a comical own goal from Martim Fernandes.

Freiburg also have one foot in the last four after beating Celta Vigo 3-0.

Villa boss Unai Emery is aiming to win the competition for a fifth time and the favourites rode their luck to emerge victorious in Italy.

Bologna made a bright start to their first European quarterfinal in 27 years.

An Ezri Konsa own goal was ruled out by a VAR review for a marginal offside against Santiago Castro before Lewis Ferguson hit the bar.

But the Coppa Italia winners were undone by some awful set-piece defending to allow Villa two of their goals.

Konsa headed into an unguarded net just before the break after Federico Ravaglia flapped at a corner.

Results (Quarterfinal, first leg): Bologna: 1 (Rowe 90th) lt to Aston Villa: 3 (Konsa 44th, Watkins 51st, 90+4); Porto: 1 (William 11th) drew with Nottingham Forest: 1 (Martim Fernandes 13 og); Freiburg: 3 (Grifo 10th, Beste 32nd, Ginter 78th) bt Celta Vigo: 0.

Afg, Ire & Zim for 2027 WTC cycle?

DUBAI, PTI: A working group within the ICC will put forth a proposal to its Board of Directors suggesting expansion of the number of countries playing in the World Test Championship from 9 to 12, with the inclusion of Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Ireland during the next cycle starting 2027.

It is believed that the working group headed by the former New Zealand Test batter Roger Twose have also proposed one-off Test series as a part of the next cycle.

"The working group will also recommend allowing one-off Tests to count towards the points accrued over the league's two-year cycle," ESPN Cricinfo reported.

However, it remains to be seen whether the ICC Board headed by Jay Shah decides on expansion considering the tight schedules with three formats.

Garudda HC emerge champs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Garudda Hockey Club were crowned the champions of the KSHA 'B' Division Hockey League Championship following their convincing 13-1 victory over Bangalore Friends Hockey Club at the Shantinagar hockey stadium on Friday.

Hari Haran (4th, 8th), Anand (12th, 19th), Magesh (16th, 35th) and Sathya Guru (25th, 27th) all scored a brace each in GHC's convincing rout of BFHC.

Ascho Hockey Club finished as runners-up and signed off the tournament with a 3-2 win over Ideal Sports Academy.

Results: Garudda Hockey Club: 13 (Hari Haran 4th, 8th, Anand 12th, 19th, Naveen Kumar 14th, Magesh 16th, 35th, Sethupandi 17th, Suresh Babu 20th, Dilli Babu 23rd, Sathya Guru 25th, 27th, Arvindrajan 29th) bt Bangalore Friends Hockey Club: 1 (Suresh 13th); Ascho Hockey Club: 3 (Naeem 13th, 38th, Chetan Chinappa 47th) bt Ideal Sports Academy: 2 (Vinish 7th, Karthik 45th)

Special Awards: Best Goalkeeper: Sanjay (Ideal Sports Academy); **Best Defender:** Anand (Garudda Hockey Club); **Best Midfielder:** MB Aiyappa (Ashco Hockey Club); Best Attacker: Suresh (Bangalore Friends Hockey Club); **Player of the Competition:** Ajay (Ideal Sports Academy).

India drub Mongolia 3-0

NEW DELHI, PTI

India enjoyed a dominant outing, blanking Mongolia 3-0 while dropping just one game, as Zeel Desai secured a straight-sets win on her Billie Jean King Cup singles debut against 15-year-old Anu-Vjin Gantor, before Sahaja Yamalapalli followed suit in the Asia/Oceania Group I tie on Friday.

Zeel drubbed her rival 6-0 6-0 in mere 37 minutes before Sahaja trounced 32-year-old Jargal Altansarnai by an identical scoreline in 42 minutes at DLTA Complex.

Later, Vaishnavi Adkar and Rutuja Bhosale hammered Khongorzul Aldarkhishig and Jargal Altansarnai 6-1 6-0 to complete the rout.

It was not more than a casual hitting session for the home players as unranked rival players did not have the game to hurt them.

India will take on Korea on Saturday, the final day of the competition, in their last outing of the tournament, and most likely, the hosts will keep their place in Group I. For India to make the play-offs, they need Indonesia to beat Korea and then register a 3-0 win themselves on Saturday.

Zeel Desai notched up a comfortable victory over Anu-Vjin Gantor on her Billie Jean King Cup singles debut. DH FILE PHOTO

The defeat against Thailand put India in a spot as it hurt their chances to finish in top-two. The top two sides in the six-team event will progress to play-offs while the bottom two will be relegated to Group II.

"We're not going to think about that (Thailand defeat). For us, it's important that we go out and beat Korea tomorrow. Whether we make it to the playoffs or not is secondary, but I think there are some young players on this team who definitely could use the experience of beating a team like Korea," India skipper Vishal Uppal said after the tie.

"There's no point brooding over, as they say, no point crying over spilt milk. We lost to Thailand. And from Ankita and Rituja's standpoint, it's a big year. It's Asian Games year."

Zverev sets up semifinal clash with Sinner

MONTE CARLO, AFP: Alexander Zverev edged out Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca in three sets on Friday to reach the Monte Carlo Masters semifinals for the third time.

Alexander Zverev

The world No. 3 sealed a battling 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3 victory, setting up a last-four clash with Jannik Sinner who brushed aside Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-4 in one hour 32 minutes.

Zverev is targeting his first ATP title since winning in Munich 12 months ago.

The German could also complete a career sweep of the clay-court Masters 1000 events, having previously won both the Italian Open and Madrid Open twice.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground water development Divison, Mandya
E mail: eemimandya@gmail.com

No:EE:MID/MDY/PB/AE-1/TB-1/2026-27/1016 **Date: 09.04.2026**

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 01/2026-27, Dated: 09.04.2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, M.I & G.W.D Division, Mandya invited item wise Tender from eligible contractors under " KPP " Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender bid documents KW-1,KW-2,KW-3 & KW-4 there are 7 No's of works and Auction for Fish and Livestock Rights of 7 No of Tanks through KPP - Portal (7-works +7 fishery rights) amount put to tender ranging from Rs. 17226.00 to as high as Rs. 310.00 Lakhs. The Details are as below.

Sl No	Head of Account	Works	Last date of uploading The Tender in KPPP & Time	Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	Financial Bid Opening Date & Time
1	4702-TSP-Check Dam	1	Dt:22.04.2026, 17.29 Hours	Dt:23.04.2026, 17.30 Hours	Dt:24.04.2026, 17.30 Hours
2	4702-SCP-Borewell	3	Dt:05.05.2026, 17.29 Hours	Dt:06.05.2026, 17.30 Hours	Dt:07.05.2026, 17.30 Hours
3	4702-TSP-Borewell	1			
4	4702-MOT	2			

Auction for Fish and Livestock Rights through KPP - Portal

Sl No	Details of Livestock Rights/Tank	Total Tanks/Fishing Rights	Last Date and time to confirm Participation of Interest in Auction	Slot start & End Date & Time for auction	Opening of Auction Tender Date & Time
1	Distribution of fishery rights through e-tender for fishing in Minor irrigation Department tanks of Maddur & Malavalli Taluk Mandya district. Maddur Taluk Tanks: (1) Kesthur Lake (2) Machahalli Lake (3) Dundanahalli Lake (4) Athaguru Lake (5)Chakanakere Lake (6) Koolagere Lake. Malavalli Taluk Tanks: (7) Nittur Lake	7	Dt:16.05.2026 17.29 Hours	Slot Start Date & Time Dt:18.05.2026 10.00 Hours Slot End Date & Time Dt:24.05.2026 17.30 Hours	Dt:25.05.2026 17.30 Hours

Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during Working hours. The tenders may be uploaded (Technical and Financial bids to be uploaded separately) with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in
Details of small irrigation department tanks/water resources in Mandya district can be obtained at the office of the signatory during working hours. Alternatively, they can be obtained on the KPPP portal www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in. The e-tender documents for auctioning fishery/livestock rights of lakes/water resources can be obtained at this office or on the KPPP portal www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in. Note: All the rights and decisions if any of all works or any of the work of this tender reserved by the under signed. Terms and conditions required for each work is published in the "www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in "Tender Portal. Any additional information is available at the office of the undersigned. Any corrections /Date Changes/ Addendum and Corrigendum regarding each individual works will be published separately in "kpp " portal only.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಮಸ್ ಎಂಐ&ಎ/036/2026–27

Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mandya.

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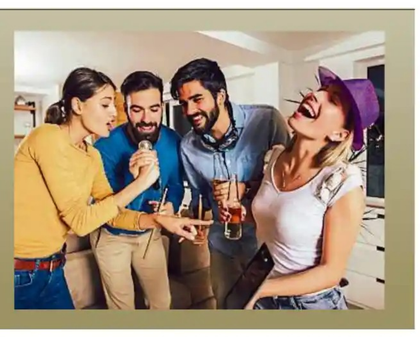
DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, April 11, 2026

Wknd.

Set the stage in your living room
PARTY TIME P04



ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

TREATS WITH A TWIST
PAGE 02

FORMAL IN SUMMER
PAGE 03

TRAVEL BLOOPERS YOU SHOULD AVOID
PAGE 04

Bring the kids out!

The summer is a great time to get your kids to explore the outdoors for a taste of Nature, says **Deepa Natarajan Lobo**

Summer Fun

The perfect time to head outdoors and enjoy the offerings of Nature, summer is a great opportunity for children to step away from screens and engage in fun, creative activities that recharge their batteries for the next academic year. The long weeks of vacation, the warm weather and extended days seamlessly lend themselves to outdoor adventures, hands-on learning experiences and social interactions.

Whether it's cycling, hiking or reading in the park, here are some simple and creative ways to keep the kids occupied and make the most of this summer.

Exploring the outdoors

Boost your children's physical and mental well-being by letting them explore the outdoors with simple activities like walking, cycling, hiking or playing outdoors. Sunil Lokre, an entrepreneur and outdoor facilitator, who organises camping trips and treks, emphasizes, "These days, kids are overly dependent on gadgets. You need to pull them out with creative activities that get them interested in being outdoors. Something as simple as taking them out for morning or sunset walks is a great way to bond with kids, especially the little ones."

Listening to Nature's music

Listening to the sounds of Nature can be a great way for kids to practice mindfulness and connect with their surroundings.

"Parents and kids can close their eyes and tune into the sounds around them - the rustling leaves, chirping birds or the distant hum of bees. This mindful listening exercise helps develop focus and appreciation for Nature," says Shruti Jha, founder of a Nature organisation that creates engaging outdoor activities.

Creating Nature art

Kids can use natural materials like leaves, twigs and flowers to create art. Shruti suggests, "Collect fallen leaves, petals, twigs and stones to make art pieces. Arrange them into patterns or create leaf rubbings with paper and crayons. This sparks creativity while deepening their connection with Nature".

Interactive games

Playing games like 'I Spy' can turn any walk into a fun and educational experience, recommends Shruti. Sunil adds, "Traditional games like I-Spy, Lagori and Hop Skip Jump are simple, yet exciting ways, to keep children occupied. Such games improve kids' focus and observation skills while making outdoor time even more enjoyable".

Nature journalling

Encourage kids to carry a notebook and pencil to sketch or document the world around them. Shruti suggests, "Carry a notebook and pencil to sketch or write about what they see. Maybe it's a butterfly's fluttering wings, a flower in bloom or an interesting cloud shape. This activity enhances observation skills and storytelling abilities."

Sunil adds, "Encourage them to keep a summer journal, adding pictures and notes to remember the memorable vacation that they had".

Walking barefoot on grass

It's a wonderful way for kids to engage their senses and connect with Nature. It not only enhances balance and coordination but also provides a soothing, almost therapeutic experience.

"Feeling the soft earth underfoot is a calming sensory experience. Walking barefoot on grass, sand or smooth pebbles helps kids feel more grounded and connected to Nature," points out Shruti.

Engage them in household activities

Engaging children in regular day-to-day activities not only keeps them occupied but also helps them develop essential life-skills and creativity.

As Sunil puts it, "Incorporate small, yet meaningful activities, into their routine. Let them help with simple chores like gardening, cooking or washing the car". Shruti shares, "Gardening helps children understand where the food comes from, and it gives them a sense of responsibility. It encourages them to observe and care for living things while learning about the environment".

Water play

Summer is the perfect time for kids to cool off and have fun with water-based activities. Whether it's swimming, running through sprinklers or splashing around in a backyard pool, water play keeps them active and refreshed.

For a creative twist, hand them a bottle of water and a large flat brush to paint Nature. "Let them paint on leaves, branches or rocks. Watching the water dry up is a fun, mess-free way to enjoy painting outdoors," says Shruti.

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Wknd. DELIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

You can sweeten a mocktail naturally and avoid sugar by adding red apples, red grapes or watermelon. Ensure the fruits are ripe and sweet

SWEET SIP

GARNISH WITH PETALS

To give ice creams, custards and kheers a twist, garnish them with rose petals. The Paneer Rose has a unique flavour and fragrance which will elevate the taste and presentation of the dessert. Rose petals also offer significant health benefits. Ensure they are organic and free from pesticides.

ICE THE JUICE

This summer, fill your ice trays with juices and sherbets. Serving a cocktail, mocktail or chilled black tea with lemon, or any other juice ice cubes will be a unique refresher. These are easy to make and can be kept for a week at least. Do not add sugar if they are naturally sweet.

Treats with a twist

Some vegetables make good desserts with their mild flavour and easy textures. Jayanthi Madhukar presents three desserts with a veggie as the hero

There's nothing like a delicious dessert to pamper your sweet tooth. Incorporating vegetables into the desserts is a creative way to add unique flavours and nutrition to the sweet treats. While carrot, bottle gourd and white pumpkin are traditionally used to make treats such as halwa and cake, beetroot, sweet potato and zucchini make for good desserts as well. The trick is to balance the vegetable notes with sugar, spices and/or chocolate to create desserts that are not only tasty but healthy as well. The common desserts that are made using such unique flavours are usually cakes, breads and halwas. Here are three recipes that are bright, colourful and sweet.

Beetroot **Halwa**

What you need

- Two cups of grated beetroot
- One cup of milk
- Quarter cup of sugar (to taste)
- Half a teaspoon of cardamom powder
- Two tablespoons each of chopped nuts (almond, cashew) and ghee

Another flavour

Instead of beetroot, you can use two cups of boiled and mashed sweet potato. You can reduce the sugar for sweet potatoes as they are naturally sweet.

Preparation

Heat the ghee in a thick bottom pan. Add the beetroot, and saute for five minutes until the raw smell goes. Pour in the milk and cook on medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the milk reduces. Add sugar and cook until the mixture thickens (you can add a quarter cup of dates paste instead of sugar). Stir in cardamom powder and chopped nuts. Cook for another 2–3 minutes and then serve the halwa warm.

Sweet **Potato Pie**

What you need

- Two cups of mashed cooked sweet potatoes
- Half a cup each of sugar (to taste) and milk or cream
- Two eggs
- Quarter cup each of nutmeg and cinnamon powder
- One teaspoon of vanilla extract
- Pre-made pie crust (or homemade)
- Pinch of salt

Preparation

Preheat oven to 180-degrees C. In a bowl, mix mashed sweet potatoes, sugar, milk, eggs, spices and vanilla extract until smooth. Pour the mixture into the pie crust. Bake for 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Serve warm with whipped cream.

Easy recipe for pie crust

Mix one and a half cups of all-purpose flour with half a cup of cold, unsalted butter (cubed) in a bowl. Cut the butter into the flour using a pastry cutter or your fingers until the mixture looks like coarse crumbs. Then press it directly into a greased pie pan, forming an even layer along the bottom and sides. Chill the crust for about 10 minutes and then bake at 180-degrees C for 15 minutes or until lightly golden. This flaky crust is perfect for sweet fillings and requires no rolling or water.

Zucchini **Cupcake**

What you need

- One cup of grated zucchini (squeeze lightly to remove excess water)
- One cup of flour
- Half a cup of sugar (to taste)
- One mid-sized egg
- Quarter cup of butter
- Half a teaspoon each of baking powder and baking soda
- One teaspoon of vanilla essence or extract
- A pinch of cinnamon (optional)

Zucchini works well in desserts because its mild flavour blends easily with sugar, chocolate and spices without overpowering them. Its high-water content adds natural moisture, keeping cakes, halwas and breads soft and tender.

Preparation

Beat the sugar and butter in a large mixing bowl.
Add the egg, flour, zucchini, vanilla essence, baking powder and baking soda to the butter-sugar mixture and mix it all well. Spoon two tablespoons of the cake batter into each cupcake mould making sure the moulds are only half-filled. Bake in a pre-heated oven (180-degree C) for about 10-15 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

TAKE THE LOW TRAIL. THE RIDGE IS TOO RISKY. WATCH YOUR FOOTING AND STAY ALERT!
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WHY IS HE SO CONCERNED?
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

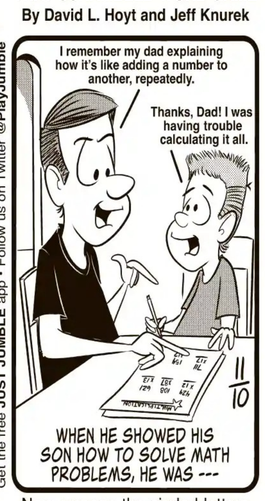
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FGEFA

CANTE

CURGOH

PAIMRI


I remember my dad explaining how it's like adding a number to another, repeatedly.
Thanks, Dad! I was having trouble calculating it all.
WHEN HE SHOWED HIS SON HOW TO SOLVE MATH PROBLEMS, HE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers

GAFFE ENACT GROUCH IMPAIR

When he showed his son how to solve math problems, he was — FATHER FIGURING

HITORI-141

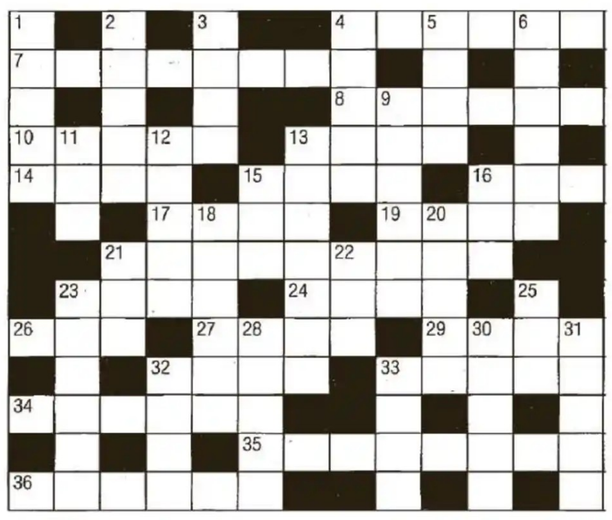
7	2	5	6	2	1	4	7
3	4	2	5	8	7	2	1
6	2	4	1	3	2	7	2
5	3	6	4	2	8	8	7
4	6	7	2	6	5	6	3
2	7	2	3	1	4	2	5
2	6	3	5	7	2	1	2
2	2	2	4	1	3	8	6

SOLUTION for HITORI-141

6	8	3	■	4	■	2	■
■	1	■	7	5	3	6	2
2	5	4	1	3	■	7	■
3	6	5	■	2	7	■	4
7	■	8	2	■	6	3	5
2	7	■	3	1	4	■	6
1	■	7	■	8	2	4	3
■	4	1	■	6	5	■	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 142



EASY

ACROSS
4 Avoid (6)
7 Snake (8)
8 Container (6)
10 Hibernian (5)
13 Price (4)
14 Fizzy water (4)
15 Supporters (4)
16 Anger (3)
17 Operator (4)
19 Water jug (4)
21 Translate (9)
23 Bellow (4)
24 Abominable snowman (4)
26 Japanese money (3)
27 Eagerly expectant (4)
29 Attack (4)
32 Big cat (4)
33 Confuse (5)
34 Fruit (6)
35 Delphinium (8)
36 Joins (6)

DOWN
1 Foundation (5)
2 Logical (5)
3 Night insect (4)
4 Pigmeat (5)
5 Fortified wine (4)
6 Short fall of rain (6)
9 Aver (6)
11 Fish eggs (3)
12 Steam bath (5)
13 Continue (5,2)
15 Charge (3)
16 Animal doctor (3)
18 Stretch tight (6)
20 Eerie (5)
21 Charged particle (3)
22 Dowel (3)
23 Stay (6)
25 Nothing (3)
28 Objectives (5)
30 Skilful (5)
31 Disparage (5)
32 Ultimate (4)
33 Inquires (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Word for a tailless wild leopard (6)
7 Water spilt with ease (5,3)
8 Having a brain like a sieve, can you solve it? (6)
10 Mount of berries? (5)
13 Originally, Noah found it intoxicating! (4)
14 Look for the letter a teetotaller's lost! (4)
15 Having taken the lead from the ship astern? (4)
16 She partners me at golf (3)
17 Flier apt to have wet feet (4)
19 Gosh, it's old-fashioned! (4)
21 Like our bird-brained friends (9)
23 Keep going to the end (4)
24 Deign to imitate a foreigner (4)
26 To a dunderhead, no means yes! (3)
27 Learn what's in the area (4)
29 Speed past (4)
32 Livery company's property, it's true (4)
33 She called back, Charlie being absent (5)
34 Assert, in the outskirts of town, there's a pub (6)
35 Slack and undisciplined old airport (8)
36 Pay for a seat (6)

DOWN
1 Live to a high standard at Land's End (5)
2 Begin to break up the party (5)
3 When William's in a state, Sean acts (4)
4 Where grisettes used to go around in pairs (5)
5 Be carried in some different directions (4)
6 What the layabout did, collecting Â£50 in dole maybe (6)
9 American medico getting a half of bitter in a pub (6)
11 The contractor's finished (3)
12 Sign meaning "arise anew"? (5)
13 Dash around in the road when you do the laundry! (7)
15 Mine can be where the orchestra plays (3)
16 Many an advert seems crazy! (3)
18 One in a wet suit? (6)
20 They fly east-southeast at some stage (5)
21 A mere craze that starts fading (3)
22 For organ music? (3)
23 Find a couple of letters tucked in behind the clock (6)
25 It's not surprisingly jelly-like (3)
28 Bondsman! (5)
30 Clear line in plot (5)
31 Only two letters, but that's fine! (5)
32 Worn part of an old gravestone (4)
33 Expected money for a fight (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 142

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Bypass 7, Anaconda 8, Carton 10, Irish 13, Cost 14, Soda 15, Fans 16, Vex 17, User 19, Ewer 21, Interpret 23, Roar 24, Yeti 26, Yen 27, Agog 29, Raid 32, Lion 33, Addle 34, Banana 35, Larkspur 36, Unites
DOWN: 1, Basis 2, Valid 3, Moth 4, Bacon 5, Port 6, Shower 9, Assert 11, Roe 12, Sauna 13, Carry on 15, Fee 16, Vet 18, Strain 20, Weird 21, Ion 22, Peg 23, Remain 25, Nil 28, Goals 30, Adept 31, Decry 32, Last 33, Asks.

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Parole 7, White Sea 8, Riddle 10, Logan 13, Wine 14, Le-er 15, Past 16, Me-g 17, Ibis 19, Egad 21, Feathered 23, Last 24, Dane 26, No-d 27, Hear 29, Sped 32, Very 33, Del(a)e 34, T-aver-n 35, Idle-wild 36, Settle.
DOWN: 1, D-well 2, Binge 3, Penn 4, Paris 5, Ride 6, Lo-LL-ed 9, In-ter-n 11, O'er 12, Aries 13, W-ashed-ay 15, Pit 16, M-ad 18, Bather 20, Ge-ESE 21, Fad 22, Ear 23, L-oc-ate 25, Gel 28, Ernie 30, Pla-i-n 31, D-and-y 32, Vest 33, Due-L.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. FASHION

GOOD MORNING

A dose of early morning sunlight confers many health benefits. The summer is a good time to get some daily

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

EAT RIGHT

Include foods and fruits with high water content as a part of your daily diet. Fruits such as watermelon and vegetables such as cucumber are summer favourites as they help rehydrate you. Avoid very oily and heavy foods, especially for breakfast. Buttermilk after lunch, garnished with ginger and coriander leaves, is a great idea.

LIGHTER WORK-OUTS

Get a summer gym routine from your trainer. Heavy work-outs that drain you may be too much of an exertion in the summer months. Include yoga, stretches etc to compensate if you need to. Yoga gives you many health benefits and is a good daily exercise. Ensure constant hydration while working-out.

COOL NATURALLY

Shift to breathable and natural fabrics for your daily wear – cotton and linen are first choices. Loose attire in these fabrics help you stay cool as they don't trap your body heat within. Never skip your moisturiser daily and choose one with a SPF of 50. Apply more than once if you are outdoors for long through the day.

Formal in summer

Fabrics and construction hold the key to formal wear that's comfortable and appropriate for corporate settings in the summer months, writes Prasad Bidapa

Pic courtesy: Prasad Bidapa Associates

Formal office wear, for men, in summer, is a technical balancing act - maintaining sartorial sharpness while respecting the realities of heat and humidity. Whezn wool-heavy suiting and synthetic blends become impractical, cotton and its derivatives step in as the most viable alternatives.

Pure cotton fabrics - particularly long-staple varieties such as Egyptian or Supima - offer breathability, moisture absorption and a soft hand-feel. For suiting, cotton twills and cotton gabardines provide structure without the thermal burden of wool. Seersucker is another excellent option - its puckered weave lifts the fabric off the skin, allowing air circulation and reducing cling. Lightweight cotton poplin shirts in lighter shades - ivory, pale blue, soft grey -form the backbone of a summer wardrobe.

'Tropicalised suiting' is fabrics engineered specifically for warm climates. Traditionally associated with lightweight wool (like tropical wool or fresco), the concept today extends to cotton blends and high-twist yarn constructions that enhance airflow and reduce fabric density. In cotton contexts, tropicalisation often means looser weaves, reduced lining and minimal canvas construction. Half-lined or unlined jackets, softer shoulders and deconstructed tailoring hold the key - they allow the garment to 'breathe' and move with the body rather than trap heat.

Blended fabrics can also be strategic, provided synthetics are used judiciously. Cotton-linen blends, for instance, combine linen's exceptional breathability with cotton's structure, reducing excessive wrinkling while retaining a relaxed elegance. Pure linen, while ideal thermally, may appear too casual for certain corporate settings unless styled sharply.

To beat the heat effectively, construction matters as much as fabric. Go for single-breasted jackets, two-button closures and trousers with minimal lining. Skip heavy interlinings and choose breathable innerwear. Footwear should follow suit - unlined leather loafers and lightweight derbies allow ventilation. Colour plays a psychological and functional role - lighter tones reflect heat and visually align with the season.

The safari suit deserves reconsideration. Once a staple of tropical dressing, it offers practicality through its structured, yet relaxed silhouette, patch pockets and typically cotton or linen construction. In modern adaptations - well-tailored, in refined neutrals such as sand, olive and tobacco - the safari suit can be a compelling semi-formal option, particularly in creative or less rigid office environments. However, it may not suit conservative corporate settings where traditional suiting codes prevail.

Ultimately, summer formalwear is about intelligent compromise. With the right cotton fabrics, thoughtful tailoring and climate-sensitive construction, men can remain impeccably dressed without discomfort - projecting authority, ease and seasonal awareness in equal measure.

Hues for the season

Shilpi Madan has some tips for a summer wardrobe that promises to turn heads

Pic courtesy: Deep Thee - Feels like summer

Summer Palette

Summer's here and it's time for the lightest, prettiest picks in your wardrobe in shades that bring in the fun.

Sunny side up

Marigold yellow brings in the magic of sunshine without the sweat. Sunflower hues light up your appearance beautifully, lending a feminine touch – whether you choose a strapless dress, shorts, crisp lemon saree or a flaming yellow swimsuit by the blue. This colour works well in a monochrome palette or when teamed with the evergreen whites.

Whites that wow

The snowy complexion rules strong every season, and summer is no exception. Shop for white shirts – the classic inclusion in your year-round wardrobe, bring in a touch of lace in sleeves and a touch of translucence in sheer maxi dresses with crochet trims for a spot of elegance to your attire.

Stay comfortable, teaming with ivory tones in shoes. White forms the perfect canvas for your accessories as well, letting you bring in the silver and gold sparkles for an evening outing.

Pastel blues

Baby blues are ruling sky high with the powdery touch singing through your summer wardrobe. Light and subtle, the shades of blue bring in the best of the warm mornings, meetings at work and a casual catch-up with friends. Easy pants and shorts, crisp linen shirts and swirling skirts that touch your ankles work the best in the blue palette that teams up easily with whites.

Go lilac

Purple is the best when it comes to making a special mark for yourself. Shades of amethyst and mauve set the mood for a perfect summer outing, especially when coupled with stylish sunglasses and a unique tote.

Bring on the mauve lip colours to add that touch of unbeatable gloss to your appearance.

Blush flush

Playful pinks make their delicate presence felt in tiny florals and bright bubblegum hues in swimwear, flowy kaftans, relaxed co-ord sets and full length dresses with belts. Let the colour do all the talking as you ease into the statement mode. Stack up on bracelets, play around with boho earrings and let the vibe shine.

Pic courtesy: Ridhi Mehra - Draped in time

All-time summer faves

- Sheer maxis with delicate embroidery or mesh layers
- Colour-drenched gowns in bold citrus or jewel tones
- Crochet and knit textures for easy beach-to-dinner looks

Handy hints

- Choose breezy separates to mix and match easily with whites
- Solid colours work best as opposed to prints
- Ease out the wrinkles, crumpled clothes detract from your appearance
- Play up the accessories to add a spot of fun and charm to your summer wardrobe
- Stay cool and comfortable - choose breathable fabrics

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WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

SUMMER FRUITS

These seasonal fruits are natural coolers. Make watermelon, strawberry, orange etc a part of your daily diet. They boost the hydration you need in summer and also give you the essential nutrients to keep you fit. Eating the fruit is better than drinking its juice as you don't lose the fibre content when you eat it.

DIET FOR SUMMER

Include veggies that are high in water content in your daily diet. Eat smaller portions more times through the day. Curd daily is a must through summer as it is a natural probiotic and strengthens your gut health. Avoid sugary drinks and processed food.

Travel bloopers you should avoid

Deepa Natarajan Lobo gets some tips from a couple of travel experts to ensure your holiday is glitch-free

Travel Smart

Going to a new place, whether national or international, has a thrill of its own. However, many a time, travellers get carried away with the excitement and make rookie mistakes. From over-packing and over-planning to under-estimating local nuances, even experienced globetrotters slip up at times. But with a little foresight and advice from those who've been there, you can steer clear of the most common pitfalls.

Two seasoned luxury travel and lifestyle influencers – Debolina Ray and Nivedith Gajapathy share some very common mistakes made by jet-setters and offer tips on how to avoid them.

Over-packing 'just in case'

Instead of stuffing your suitcase for every possible scenario - rain, fancy dinners, hikes - opt for versatile layers and mix-and-match outfits that can work across various settings.

"While it's good to have an Insta-worthy wardrobe, essentials such as travel adaptors, seasonal wear and medicines are more crucial. People over-index on outfits and under-index on utility. The mistake is not having a system," says Debolina.

Pro tip: Pack smart with a checklist and prioritise utility over fashion.

Not planning the hours after landing

The excitement of arrival often over-shadows the basic planning of how to spend the initial hours after landing.

"With no local SIM and no idea how to get to the hotel, travellers often fall for over-priced airport taxis," cautions Nivedith. "Additionally, many jump straight into sightseeing which leads to burnout by the second day. Keep day one light - walk, eat and soak in the vibe".

Pro tip: Sort transfers and connectivity in advance so you can keep Day One easy.

Over-loading the itinerary

Trying to squeeze in every sight and experience can quickly turn overwhelming, transforming enthusiasm into exhaustion.

"An itinerary is more than just a checklist. Sometimes, you want an in-depth experience," notes Debolina, adding, "Rush through tourist traps if needed, but make time for what truly matters."

Pro tip: Visit a few must-see spots and let the rest of the trip unfold naturally.

Taking visa processes lightly

Even with visa-on-arrival options becoming common, many destinations still have strict processes, observes Debolina.

"People don't focus on details, and even seasoned travellers get over-confident, resulting in delayed visas, longer processing timelines or rejections," she says.

Pro tip: Double-check visa requirements and timelines well in advance.

Carrying too much cash

It's easy to over-estimate how much cash you will need, but carrying large amounts is both risky and unnecessary, points out Nivedith.

"Don't carry too much cash. Activate international withdrawal on your debit card if needed. Avoid airport exchange counters as they have the worst rates," he advises.

Pro tip: Use cards or UPI where possible and keep only minimal cash.

Sticking to familiar food at a premium

Playing it safe with food can limit your travel experience.

"Many Indians eat only Indian food abroad. It's expensive and rarely tastes as good as back home. Try local dishes, but balance them, especially in the first couple of days," encourages Nivedith.

Pro tip: Ease into local cuisine while mixing in familiar meals.

Relying entirely on Internet

In an unfamiliar city, losing access to your phone or Internet can leave you stranded.

"If your battery dies, you lose access to maps and information," says Nivedith, highlighting the importance of being prepared offline and not relying solely on the Internet.

Pro tip: Download and printout maps and key details beforehand.

Skipping insurance and document back-ups

Misplacing documents or facing an emergency abroad can quickly derail a trip.

"Keep soft copies of important documents on email or cloud storage," recommends Nivedith. He adds, "99 per cent of travellers skip insurance, but it's a must and extremely helpful during emergencies."

Pro tip: Back up all documents digitally and always get travel insurance.

Choosing cheap accommodation over location

A budget hotel far from key attractions might seem like a good deal, but it often leads to wasted time and higher commute costs.

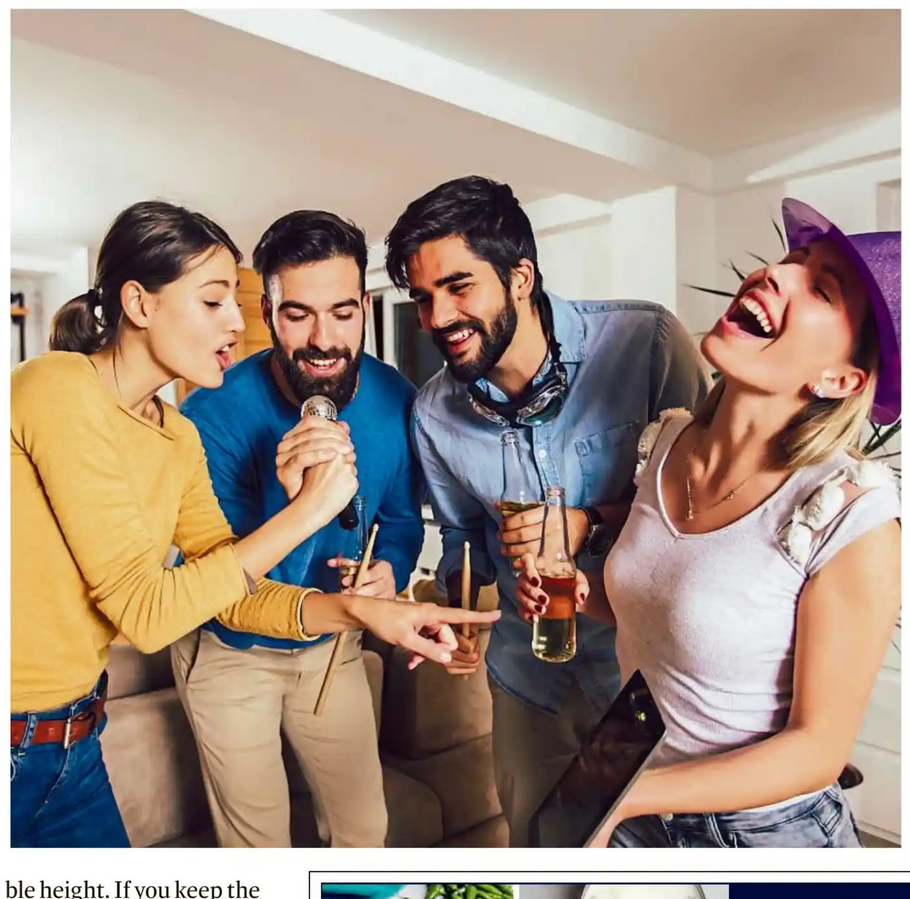
"Always choose a hotel based on the location," suggests Nivedith.

Pro tip: Prioritise location over price for lesser expenses on commute.

Set the stage in your living room

Old friends, comfort food and music make for a great weekend at home. **Shilpi Madan** explains how you can set the stage for a musical and fun party

Party Time



Rev up the mood at your home party with a spot of participation from all your friends and family. You can chill out and bring in some chatty hours, share memories and anecdotes, crack jokes and play games, or even have a crooner over to set the momentum for the evening

Here are some ways to amp up the vibe:

Make space

Set the mood, by clearing up a space in the corner of your living room. Make the area comfortable, with soft throws and cushions for a chill-out vibe. This creates the setting for an intimate evening.

Mic handy

Organise the karaoke for a spot of spontaneity. Keep the songs handy in keeping with the likes of your crowd – filmi music, classics, rock, folk, romantic numbers... bring them on. It is fun to keep a musical instrument handy – like a mouth organ or harmonium - to encourage others to join in the momentum.

Keep it small

Handpick your guests, keeping the number restricted to a like-minded few. This works well especially given the inch pinch nature of many homes today. Also, in this format the conversations and the storytelling happen naturally and set the rhythm for the get-together.

Seat up

Maintain the seating such that everyone gets a comfortable view of whoever is singing. Remove the high chairs and place the equipment, if any, at a comfortable height. If you keep the seating low and easy on the floor, it creates visual fluidity and keeps the eye moving easily to give the impression of extra space.

Foodie alert

Keep the snacks and drinks handy. The drinks flowing at the open bar, the tea and coffee on a constant brew to maintain the momentum with the laughter, impromptu join-ins and sing-alongs, together with the favourite munchies.

Order everything you need before-hand to elbow out any interruptions with doorbells and phone calls for home delivery.

Ideally, set up these evenings over the weekend for a mood of total relaxation with friends and family. Impromptu baithaks and karaoke nights are an absolute de-stressor and thread everyone together.

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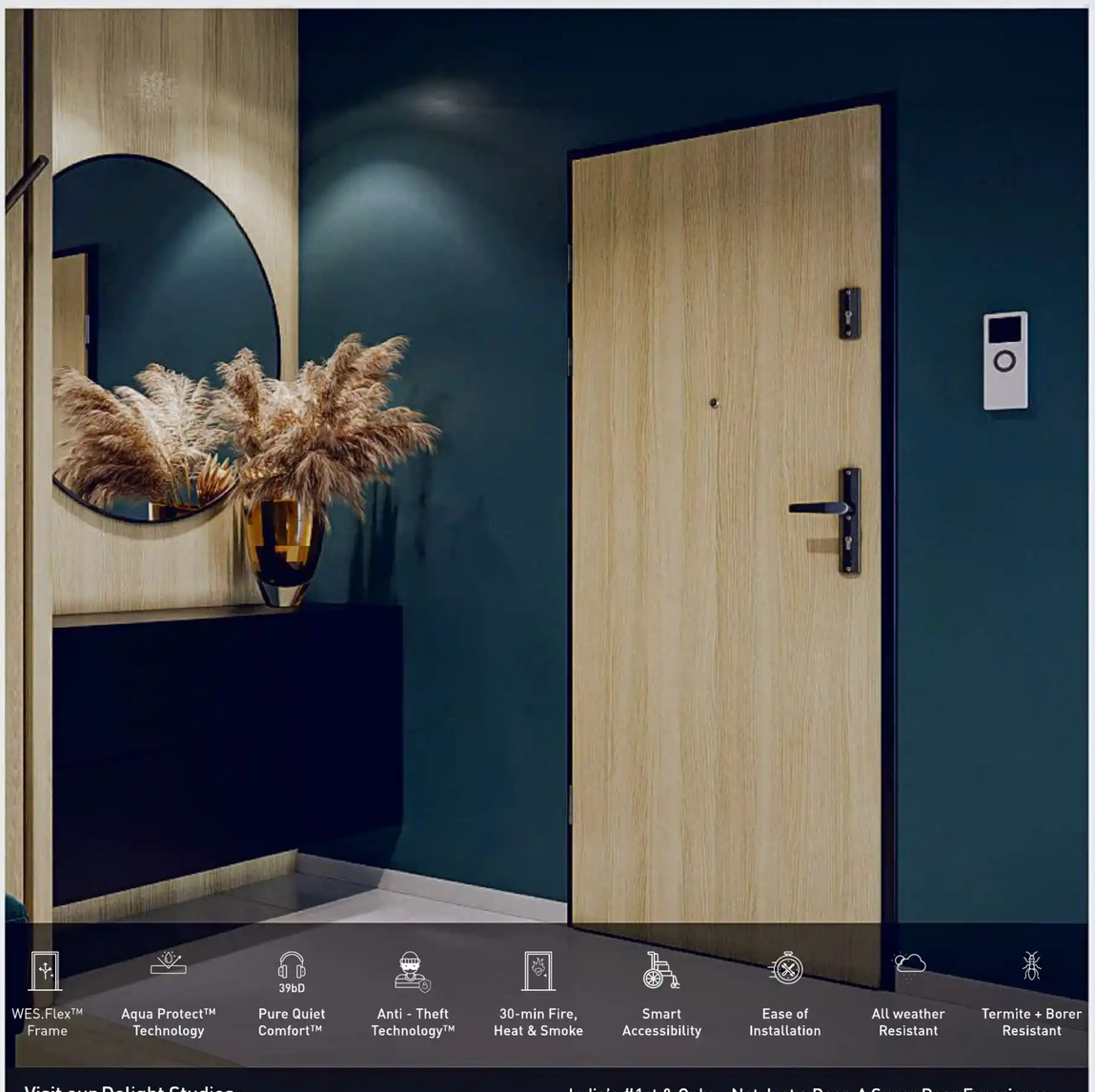

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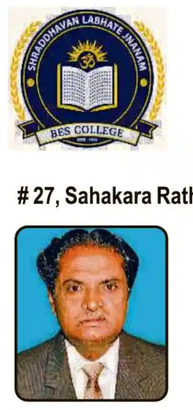

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HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS to TOPPERS OF II PUC 2025-26

COMMERCE TOPPERS

NEHA P
588 - 98%
SANSKRIT -100

DEVENDAR J
583 - 97.2%

AKSHAY KIRTI M
582 - 97%
ACCOUNTS -100
STATISTICS -100
BASIC MATHS -100

AISHWARYA B K
582 - 97%
B.STUDIES -100
ACCOUNTANCY -100
STATISTICS -100

HEMASHREE H
577 - 96.2%
ACCTS-100
STATISTICS -100

HEMANTH S
576 - 96%
B.STUDIES -100
STATISTICS -100

PUSHPA N
590 - 98.3%
ACCOUNTANCY -100
STATISTICS -100

D S BHANUSHREE
576 -96%

SCIENCE TOPPERS

TRISHA V
573 -95.5%

SHREYAS N
571 -95.2%

NIKHIL P RAO
569 -94.8%
MATHS -100
ELECTRONICS -100

SHREYA M
568 -94.7%

PRAJWAL M
566 -94.3%
ELECTRONICS -100

NIMISHA R
564 -94%

KUSHAL R
570 - 95%
STATISTICS -100

SYED MANSOOR AHMED
569 - 94.8%
STATISTICS -100

VINUTHA V
567 - 94.5%
STATISTICS -100

TEJASWINI M
565 - 94.2%
STATISTICS -100

GOWTHAMI M
562 - 93.7%

PRANAMYA TEHASWINI PAWAR S
559 - 93%
SANSKRIT -100

RENTALA PAVANI
559 - 93%

LAVANYA S
562 -93.7%

GUNASHREE S G
559 -93.2%

PREETHAM R
552 -92%

SRISHA DAROJI S
550 -91.7%

ROHAN M
549 -91.5%

MANOJ N HIREMATH
545 -90.8%

TANISHA M
544 -90.7%

AJAY C
558 - 93%
STATISTICS -100

MEETH KUMAR B
555 - 92.5%
STATISTICS -100

BHUVANESH D
553 - 92.2%

SKANDA KUMAR M M
551 - 91.8%
ACCOUNTS -100

LOKESHWARI S
551 - 91.8%

PRAJWAL N
537 - 89.5%

SYED MOHAMMED USMAN
537 - 89.5%

GAYATHRI B
542 -90.3%

FAYAJ GOREY
542 -90.3%

ANANYA M
538 -89.7%

ABHISARIKA
536 -89.3%

DURGASHREE K
533 -88.8%

SANJANA D
533 -88.8%

MADHU H GOWDA
533 -88.8%

PRADEEP K
535 - 89.2%

KOUSTHUBHA D M
532 - 88.7%

MADHAV M PISHE
531 - 88.5%

CHANDAN V
531 - 88.5%
B.STUDIES -100

DEEKSHA N
530 - 88.3%

MADESHA P
527 - 87.8%

SWASTHI SHENOY
526 - 87.7%

DHARANI B
532 -88.7%

TEJASWINI
531 -88.5%

ABHISHEK G
529 -88.2%

TANU S
528 -88%

B M JISHNU
528 -88%

THUSHAR KASHYAP B
528 -88%

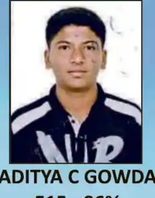
SANKETH V
527 -87.8%

S V SUDHARSHAN
524 - 87.3%

TEJASHWINI C
523 - 87%

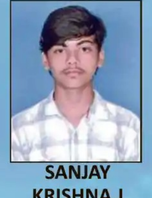
SINDHU J
522 - 87%

RHEA RAO
522 - 87%


ADITYA C GOWDA
515 - 86%

YASHASWINI BAI
511 - 85%

HRISHIKESH SAHA
511 - 85%


SANJAY KRISHNA J
526 -87.7%

MAHESH D
525 -87.5%

SAHANA J
518 -86.3%

RITIKA H
517 -86.2%

SHREYA M V
516 -86%

SHREYAS R BHAPRI
516 -86%

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515 -85.8%

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CONGRATULATIONS! ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS & STAFF!

— OUR TOPPERS — II PUC RESULTS 2025-2026

STATE LEVEL RANK HOLDERS

6th RANK
Mahak M Jain
II PUC COMMERCE
99.16%
Sanskrit – 100/100
Business Studies – 100/100
Accountancy – 100/100
Statistics – 100/100

10th RANK
Himanshu V Chouhan
II PUC COMMERCE
98.50%
Accountancy – 100/100
Statistics – 100/100
Basic Maths – 100/100

11th RANK
Thanushree S
II PUC SCIENCE
98.20%
Computer Science - 100/100

Apoorva R
97.50%
Physics - 100/100

Moulyashree P
97.00%

Navya Shree S
97.00%
Mathematics - 100/100

Indra Kumar
96.83%
Business Studies - 100/100

K Monika
96.83%

Deepika B M
96.33%
Business Studies – 100/100

Gomathichandra G
96.16%
Sanskrit - 100/100

Nithyashree V
96.16%

Moksha P Bhandari
95.83%
Sanskrit - 100/100
Economics - 100/100

Sushmitha S
95.66%
Computer Science - 100/100

Hrithik Balaji H S
95.50%

Abdul Hassan
95.33%

Ramya V
95.16%
Sanskrit - 100/100
Computer Science - 100/100

Varshitha D
95.00%

Spandana R
94.83%
Computer Science - 100/100

Nakul V
94.66%
Computer Science - 100/100

Hemashree L
94.50%
Sanskrit - 100/100

Sinchana D Gowda
94.33%

Sinchana S
94.16%

Sanjana S
93.83%

Ritu S
93.50%

S Haripriya
93.16%

Yaana Jain
92.83%

Keerthana N
92.66%

Nishagowda S B
92.66%

Ravi Kumar A
92.50%

Chahat Parekh
92.33%

Akshitha S
92.33%

Sonu V B
92.33%

Lakshitha Verma
92.17%

Divyashree S
92.16%
Computer Science - 100/100

Nanditha R
92.00%

Pavan Devaraj
92.00%

Jayanth Gowda Y J
91.16%

Nanda Kishore
91.83%

Hana Zakir Hussain
91.33%

Ganesh G
91.00%

Charantej H
90.83%

Sanju Dayya
90.83%

Ashray C
90.50%
Computer Science - 100/100

Vishnu S
90.50%

Rachitha A
90.50%

Pallavi R
90.33%

Mahalakshmi H S
90.16%

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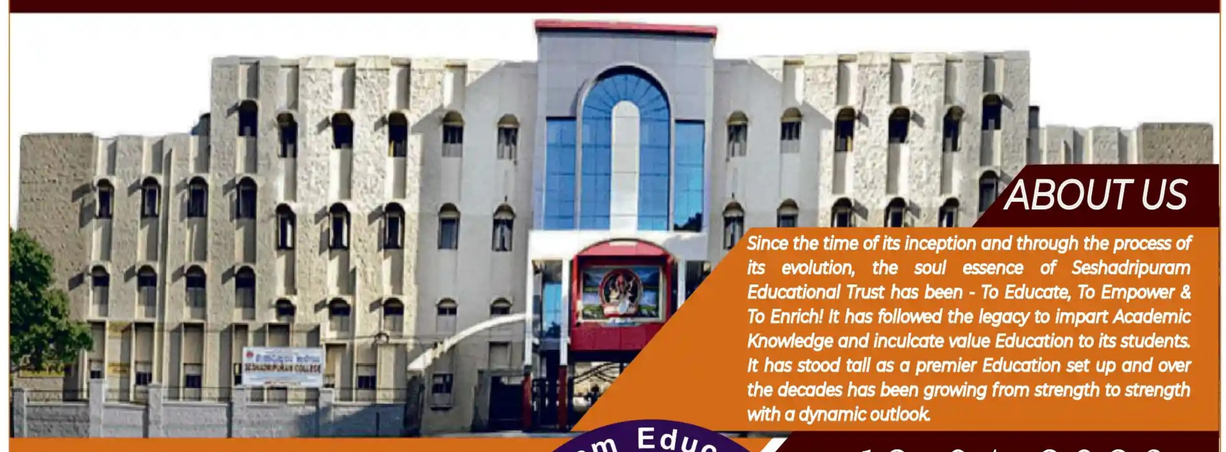

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Since the time of its inception and through the process of its evolution, the soul essence of Seshadripuram Educational Trust has been - To Educate, To Empower & To Enrich! It has followed the legacy to impart Academic Knowledge and inculcate value Education to its students. It has stood tall as a premier Education set up and over the decades has been growing from strength to strength with a dynamic outlook.

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